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Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

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Wednesday, 25 April 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Rice/Mr. DeLaurentis	(United States of America)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security

Securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement

Letter dated 5 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/195)

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12-31426 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security

Securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement

Letter dated 5 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/195)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Libya, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/195, which contains a letter dated 5 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and I give him the floor.

The Secretary-General: I thank the United States for using its presidency of the Council to draw attention to the important issue on today's agenda.

Across the globe, insufficiently protected borders enable the trafficking of drugs, weapons, contraband, terrorist funding, materials related to weapons of mass destruction, conflict minerals, wildlife and people. Such illicit flows undermine the sovereignty of States, destroy communities and individual lives, threaten peace and security and are rightly the focus of the Security Council's close attention.

Countering those illicit flows requires action on many fronts. Strengthening border security is crucial. Member States are obligated under international law to secure their borders against illicit flows. But fragile and vulnerable countries — some of them devastated by war, others struggling to transform themselves — often lack the capacity to overcome the conditions that allow such criminal activity to flourish. The United Nations is thus hard at work, helping many States to build that capacity. In Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Airport Communication Project, known as AIRCOP, has been set up to strengthen controls at international airports. Project AIRCOP's maritime equivalent is the Global Container Control Programme. Although more than 500 million maritime containers move around the world each year and account for 90 per cent of international trade, only 2 per cent are inspected. Strengthening customs and immigration systems is essential.

Border strengthening is effective, but not if done in isolation. We also need to give priority to establishing public institutions that deliver a sustained level of security and justice for citizens. Border security can never come at the expense of migrants' rights. Nor can it be used to legitimize inhumane treatment.

The United Nations Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, co-chaired by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Department of Political Affairs, is developing comprehensive approaches. Regional cooperation is key to addressing both illicit flows and human trafficking, as are legal tools. I urge Member States to ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the legal instruments designed to fight terrorism.

Countering illicit flows also requires us to do more to prevent money laundering. We need systems that can detect and monitor the enormous flows of

illicit money generated by cross-border crimes, most of which is laundered through the global financial system.

Illicit flows are directly linked to terrorism. Our counter-terrorism strategies rely on States adopting measures on the cross-border movement of people, goods and cargo, small arms and light weapons, nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological and other potentially deadly materials. We are helping Member States to strengthen their institutional and legislative frameworks in that area. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's Working Group on Border Management relating to Counter-Terrorism is compiling a comprehensive compendium of international instruments, norms and best practices.

The illicit flows that pose the gravest threat are, of course, those related to the possible terrorist acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. Efforts to address that challenge include the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) through the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Trafficking in firearms and ammunition also helps to fuel terrorism, violence and armed conflicts, while hindering social and economic development. We are helping Member States to strengthen their institutional and legislative frameworks in that area by developing technical guidelines for the safe management of ammunition and international control standards for small arms and light weapons.

There are no quick solutions to illicit flows. There is only a long-term process that requires the sustained commitment of all. Our watchtowers must be accompanied by the watchwords: information, intelligence, data collection and analysis. It is an area where the United Nations, with its ability to provide objective and balanced information, can play a key role. We will continue to identify new threats and bring them to the attention of the Security Council, so that the international community can respond.

As the Council knows, prevention is one of my priorities. Preventing illicit flows is beneficial to countries, communities and individuals. It is important for security, development and human rights. In six months, I will return to the Council with a report providing a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations work to help Member States counter illicit flows.

Thank you again, Madame President, for addressing the aforementioned matters and working to improve our work in this crucial area.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Cabral (Portugal): I would like to start by thanking the United States delegation for bringing today's important matter to the Security Council for our discussion. The interest the topic generates is eloquently demonstrated by the number of speakers inscribed on the list.

I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his thought-provoking briefing.

Portugal attaches great importance to the efforts being developed throughout the United Nations system to respond to requests for assistance by States in areas of national concern related to the ever more sophisticated and often interconnected threats and challenges posed by illicit cross-border trafficking and movement of materials, funds and goods, as well as human beings.

Those areas of concern include the need to protect and secure borders, a need echoed by an increasing number of requests by States for assistance in tackling the various forms of illicit cross-border trafficking and movements, with the aim of countering and preventing the negative impact of those phenomena on their national systems and the unravelling of regional and subregional stability and security. Indeed, all these types of illicit trafficking and movements have a tremendous impact on every State, but in particular on the most fragile ones, debilitating their efforts towards institution-building, peace, stability, the rule of law and sustained development. This is where the United Nations, in its efforts to promote and coordinate the international community assistance, has a crucial role to play.

In November last year, under the Portuguese presidency, the Council organized a briefing on new challenges to international peace and security (see S/PV.6668). It was evident then, as it is evident now, that the Council cannot disregard its role in conflict prevention and has to increase its awareness of new realities that are increasingly challenging or have the potential to threat peace and security. We suggested

then that the Council could establish a kind of observatory tool — an informal working group of Council members — to monitor these issues on its horizon and to review information derived from reports of the Secretary-General, which could serve as the foundation for concerted, articulated, prompt and effective action of the international community. We think the Council should give this further thought.

Today's debate follows, in our view, a similar logic. We believe also that there is clearly here a role for the Security Council to play. The Council cannot simply turn a blind eye to the impact of illicit trafficking and movements across borders in the destabilization of States and regions and their impact on peace processes and on fuelling conflicts — not to mention its links with international terrorism, namely, through its financing. These are concerns that the Council should keep on its horizon, and we should be prepared to act whenever necessary and at the request of the affected countries or region, to which falls the primary responsibility. However, these are issues that the Council should not deal with alone.

Indeed, for the United Nations, helping States to secure their borders through technical assistance is already a well-established task, as reflected in a wide range of activities carried out and programmed by a large number of its bodies and organs, both within the orbit of the General Assembly and in the sphere of the Security Council. As in other segments of its activity, however, we believe that the United Nations may and should improve its performance in this area — on the one hand, by improving the effectiveness and operational coordination of its internal efforts to assist States and regions in need, and, on the other, by enhancing its coordination with relevant non-United Nations partners and bodies.

The identification of areas of existing overlaps and gaps seems to be a logical step in order to further improve the adequacy and effectiveness of the efforts being carried out. That is why we appreciate and welcome this debate and its anticipated outcome, particularly in respect to the invitation made to the Secretary-General to submit, in six months, a report providing a comprehensive survey and assessment of the United Nations work to address Member States' requests for assistance in countering and preventing illicit cross-border trafficking and movement through their respective borders.

We believe that this report will provide a very valuable basis for the work of the Security Council, the General Assembly and all other relevant United Nations organs and bodies, with which, we believe, it should be shared, opening the way for better coordinated and more effective assistance strategies and plans of action. We also believe that improving the coherence of action between Headquarters-based bodies and the United Nations structures in the field, distinctively tailored to each specific context and situation, and pursuing consistent preventive approaches could be of great value to this endeavour.

As we said at the open debate in November, it is our duty to deepen our knowledge of these phenomena so as to ensure that they do not turn into conflicts. As the main body responsible for maintaining peace and security, the Council must be ready to shoulder its responsibilities.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We believe that today's debate on securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement and how cross-border crime and its manifestations can exacerbate situations under the Council's consideration is taking place at a very timely moment. The Secretary-General made some very pointed comments on the implications of such activities and the involvement of the United Nations.

Managing, securing and protecting borders is a sovereign prerogative of States. We believe it necessary to strike a balance between control measures to maintain secure borders and facilitating the movement of persons, funds and legitimate goods. This discussion should lead us to deepen the cooperation between the Security Council and other bodies of the United Nations system concerning an issue that, by its very nature and global scope, requires concerted and coordinated action of the various organs and bodies of the United Nations system in development of the principles of the Charter and the framework of its respective responsibilities and mandates.

Illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems, as well as the movement of terrorists and their funds across borders, are recognized as threats to international peace and security. Moreover, in specific contexts, the Council has discussed different manifestations of organized crime that contribute to the deterioration of situations that are already fragile. These complex

criminal activities transcend the trafficking and cross-border dimensions and require a comprehensive and balanced approach that addresses all their aspects.

The international community must combat such criminal activities with unwavering resolve. That is why it is a priority to adopt, in the context of the Organization, a binding instrument to improve control of the trade in small arms and light weapons, explosives and related materials, and the marking and registration of munitions in order, and to prohibit their transfer to armed non-State actors. The illicit cross-border traffic in weapons is probably one of the factors with the greatest impact on national and international security, and further exacerbates violent situations.

We must acknowledge that effective compliance with obligations arising from the Council's decisions adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter depends not solely on political will, but also on the tools available to Member States. That is why, on the basis of an assessment that emphasizes cooperation and coordination, we should focus our efforts on improving the efficiency of binding decisions taken by the Council to strengthen the capacities, institutions and normative frameworks of Member States.

In exercising sovereign power to manage and control their borders, States have the responsibility to fully meet their international obligations. In that context, Colombia welcomes the creation of an inventory of actions and initiatives that have been taken by the Organization at the request of States in order to strengthen its capacities in this area.

The criminal manifestations under consideration today are also regulated by specialized international treaties, in conformity with a broad and comprehensive legislative framework that offers the legal tools adequate to combating them. Similarly, agreements reached in the context of the General Assembly recognize overall concepts that are broadly accepted within the Organization and allow the development of inclusive and balanced strategies. The Organization as a whole must focus its efforts on providing the assistance requested by States towards achieving comprehensive compliance with the obligations that arise from these agreements.

It is also necessary to adopt efficient mechanisms and measures to strengthen international cooperation and coordination among States to combat the various manifestations of the crimes under consideration. It is therefore a priority to strengthen border controls through the allocation of technological and financial resources, to establish effective legal cooperation agreements, and to exchange information.

My country believes that these challenges should be addressed holistically and in respect for the balance between measures to strengthen security and avoiding obstacles to social and economic development. While we understand the need to protect ourselves from the dangers posed by what has been referred to as illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, Colombia's laws and Constitution consider borders primarily as zones of integration wherein economic, social, scientific, technological and cultural development should be promoted. As such, they emphasize the strengthening of systems for cross-border customs cooperation, as well as of networks for the sharing of information among law-enforcement authorities.

Mr. Bouchaara (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I should like to thank the delegation of the United States for its initiative in organizing this important debate on securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General for his detailed briefing. The theme chosen by your delegation, Madam President, involves the entire international community. We appreciate the perspective from which your delegation has chosen to holistically take up the issue of securing borders in the face of various cross-border challenges that pose a threat to international peace and security. This debate also provides an opportunity for all delegations participating today to undertake a broad and constructive exchange of views on this important issue.

The United Nations was established to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security. In line with their respective competencies, the problems posed by illicit cross-border trafficking and movement have been addressed by various bodies through conventions, protocols, mechanisms, action plans and sanctions regimes. Today there is no doubt that the work of the United Nations, along with the steps taken by Member States at the national, regional, subregional and interregional basis, has made it possible to better secure our borders.

We must acknowledge, however, that in this new era of globalization the various networks involved in illicit cross-border trafficking and movement have

unfortunately been able to benefit from the growing interconnectedness of our world and to evade our collective efforts to combat them. The increasing fluidity at the international level has made it possible for those various networks — whether they are associated with trafficking in weapons, natural and mineral resources, drugs or human beings — to link up in non-transparent ways and set up mutually supporting alliances that sometimes involve terrorist networks, armed groups and separatist movements.

That state of affairs is especially worrying in that such interconnectedness is not just a mere potential threat, but a reality in various regions of the world. It is unfortunately a reality on the African continent. The Sahelo-Saharan and Atlantic coastal regions have been especially affected, as has the Gulf of Guinea. The recent developments in the Sahel must be the focus of our attention, as they illustrate the impact that the tangle of networks involved in illicit cross-border trafficking and movement could have on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries of those regions, as well as on international peace and security.

Combating this threat must first and foremost be a concern for Member States, which must in a sovereign manner identify and take the necessary appropriate measures to secure their borders while observing their international obligations. Given the nature of this cross-border challenge, our efforts must also be both collective and effective.

Securing borders also entails heightened dialogue and cooperation at the bilateral level, as well as the subregional, inter-regional and international levels, on the basis of the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility to address the underlying causes that make possible the continuation and development of illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. The goal should be to provide a concrete, tailored and sustainable response.

The issue of assistance is also crucial. In that regard, it is essential that the international community demonstrate greater solidarity by providing effective support to States that desire such assistance in strengthening their capacities to secure their borders, all the while respecting their national sovereignty. It is also important to support those States in their efforts to combat the various types of cross-border movement by putting an end to the safe havens enjoyed by networks. To that end, the United Nations and the various existing cooperation and coordination mechanisms have a key role to play.

The Kingdom of Morocco has always been an active member of the international community in combating this scourge. We have constantly called attention to the danger posed by the growing interconnectedness of illicit cross-border trafficking and movement in our region. It is in that spirit that Morocco hosted the launching of important international initiatives, in particular the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the African Initiative for the Atlantic, which aim to provide a coordinated and concerted response to illicit cross-border trafficking and movement and to facilitate cooperation and the exchange of best practices.

Morocco has also organized numerous events dealing with various aspects of the phenomenon we are addressing today. I should also like to take this opportunity to inform the members of the Council that, before the end of this year, Morocco will host the holding of the second meeting of the regional ministerial conference on border security in North African and Sahel countries.

We should all continue to work together to combat illicit cross-border trafficking and movement and the various networks involved, as well as to ensure that the legal instruments and mechanisms that have been established are able to respond to the evolving nature and scope of the dangers they pose. The United Nations, its Member States and the various organizations concerned should coordinate their efforts and demonstrate genuine political will to continue, update and adapt the international norms and the mechanisms that have been established in order to face this phenomenon.

In conclusion, my delegation takes note of the proposal to request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. We hope that the report will contribute to the Organization's efforts to provide a collective response that can help us to effectively overcome the challenges we face.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to thank you, Madam President, for organizing this open debate. We have taken note of the concept paper (S/2012/195, annex) prepared by your delegation to guide our deliberations, for which we are

also grateful. We also express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his clear introductory statement.

As you are aware, Madam President, although our delegation did not object during your initial consultations to the holding of a debate on the general topic of illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, the discussions leading up to today's meeting turned out to be quite lively. I would like to explain the basis for our own concerns, as seen from our national perspective.

Most of our concerns stem from whether emphasis should be placed on securing borders or on illicit trafficking. With regard to the former, our concern is simply that securing borders against the illicit movement of goods, services, financial flows and persons can be defended on its own right; however, it always poses the risk of hampering licit movements, thereby causing more harm than good. With regard to the latter, we wonder about how one is to distinguish between illicit and licit movements — and the grey areas in between — and about how one is to differentiate between various types of movement, taking into account that dealing with, for instance, narcotics trafficking is quite different from human trafficking or dealing in stolen cultural artifacts, not to mention the cross-border movement of persons.

Moreover, not all illicit cross-border activities pose an actual threat to international peace and security, although some certainly have that potential. Furthermore, however we approach the scourge of illicit trafficking, whether under the purview of the Security Council or, in more general terms, within the overall context of the United Nations system, we should be motivated by the idea of promoting cooperation between Member States on such matters. However, by emphasizing controls and regulations, we run the risk, perhaps unintentionally, of encouraging a more defensive approach on the part of sovereign States, with an every-man-for-himself mentality, which would be contrary to the purposes and principles of the Organization.

Besides such comments of a conceptual nature, we also have some more specific observations to make, mostly of a more positive nature.

First, we believe that this discussion can contribute to our efforts to prevent conflicts with a view to maintaining international peace and security and strengthen our responses to emerging threats and challenges. Like terrorism, the phenomena of transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in arms, goods and persons are shared responsibilities; in order to prevent and combat them, we must work collectively. Moreover, we need to secure our borders and combat illicit trafficking and movement in order to uphold the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Secondly, a wide range of existing strategies and initiatives to address these issues has been developed at the national, regional and international levels, which makes it more difficult to identify synergies and similarities. That can be attributed not only to the particular nature of each issue, or to the fact that each is discussed in separate expert forums, but also to the fact that each topic is governed by its own legislative and treaty frameworks. That is additional justification for strengthening international cooperation and for providing technical assistance, particularly to promote and facilitate the implementation of the relevant international conventions and protocols.

Thirdly, distinct strategies are required to address specific threats posed by different types of illicit trafficking and movement, including appropriate strategies designed to reduce the demand and supply of illicit drugs. In effect, we need to address the underlying causes of that phenomenon and to take actions designed to reduce the market for illegal drugs as well as the profits from their sale. Unless the underlying issues are addressed, the problem will simply be displaced, or else it will be replaced by another illicit activity. Governments must therefore strengthen the rule of law in their countries in order to develop social antibodies to fight organized crime and eventually break the cycle of crime and underdevelopment.

Fourthly, strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States to secure their borders against illicit trafficking and movement is only one aspect, albeit an important one, in the wider arsenal of measures to address this issue. While recognizing that the United Nations has a role to play in helping the States concerned, which should be carried out within existing mandates, upon the request of Member States, with full respect for their sovereignty and under national ownership. Moreover, adequate resources are also needed to ensure that sustainable efforts yield significant results.

Fifthly, many parts of the United Nations system, including most visibly the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, are either directly or indirectly involved in supporting countries in the effort to combat the illicit trafficking of goods, services and people. There is a case to be made in that regard for greater coherence and coordination within the system.

Finally, the Security Council should continue to strengthen its mechanisms under resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), which specifically address the implementation of counter-terrorism and non-proliferation obligations, since they also concern cross-border control and management.

Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri (India): At the outset, let me join others in thanking you, Madam President, for organizing this open debate on the threats to international peace and security posed by illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

Trafficking by non-State actors in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, and the movement of terrorists and their funds challenge international peace and security. Moreover, there are situations where international peace and security is exacerbated by illicit cross-border trafficking in arms and drug trafficking. In such cases, Security Council pronouncements have invariably listed those exacerbations and sought to control them.

At the same time, there are a number of United Nations bodies and agencies that have their identified and Charter-mandated areas of specialization in connection with illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. It is important that the Council respects the mandates of other organs of the United Nations and its specialized bodies.

Of late, there has been a concerted push to bring several global issues onto the Council's agenda under the pretext of their affecting international peace and security. That needs to be avoided. The Charter provides for a clear division of responsibility between the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other specialized bodies. We must respect that separation of functions in letter and spirit.

General norm-setting must necessarily belong to relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations. The Security Council should step in only where there is threat to international peace and security, and in the context of specific situations, such as in conflict and post-conflict situations, and under sanctions regimes established pursuant to resolutions 1540 (2004), 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999), under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The United Nations has played a seminal role in the capacity-building of Member States. States need assistance to fulfil their international commitments, to strengthen their internal institutions, including those dealing with law and order, and to secure their borders. Such an exercise must always be demand-driven and led by Member States. We commend the efforts and commitment of the relevant United Nations agencies in developing the capacities of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. Commitment to the capacity-building of States in different sectors requires greater financial and technological support, and we should be willing to provide the same to them.

However, the connected issue is how the relevant United Nations agencies can help interested Member States secure their borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. The first fundamental principle in that regard is respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State seeking assistance. Secondly, donors and the relevant United Nations agencies must respect the prerogative of the Member State concerned in securing its own borders. Thirdly, assistance in capacity-building must be provided only upon request and as mutually agreed.

The challenges we are discussing today are global in nature, and their interlinkages make them even more complex. They call for strong collaborative action, involving all Member States working together in a manner that is legitimate and appropriate.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The theme of today's meeting is directly related to the growing and ever-diversifying challenges and threats from terrorism, drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime. Porous borders are one factor encouraging the illicit trafficking of weapons and drugs and the movement of terrorists and their financial resources. Many types of illicit cross-border trafficking

genuinely and seriously undermine the efforts of the Council to maintain international peace and security.

Particular attention should be paid to the sanctions regimes imposed by the Council and the ad hoc regimes established under its relevant counter-terrorist resolutions, in particular resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), where for us, the priority areas are illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, weapons of mass destruction and their components and the movement of terrorists and their financial resources.

It is a secret to no one that there are problems in terms of compliance with these regimes. The destructive impact of Afghan drug trafficking, which has merged with terrorism, has long grown beyond the borders of that specific region. We view Afghan drug trafficking as a threat to international peace and security. We advocate a comprehensive approach to countering this threat, including the range of tools available to the Security Council to curb the financial flows that fuel drug trafficking and to place drug lords on the relevant Security Council sanctions lists.

Important measures have been put in place in terms of implementing Security Council resolution 1817 (2008) in order to counter the smuggling into Afghanistan of the chemical precursors used to manufacture drugs. There needs to be greater involvement on the part of the international security forces in Afghanistan in efforts to eradicate drug crops and drug laboratories in that country. The outcomes of the third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact, held in Vienna in 16 February, provides us the necessary platform for comprehensive efforts to curb Afghan drug flows.

Another example is the spread of Libyan weapons. There is a real threat that those weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists. In that connection, Russia initiated resolution 2017 (2011), which sends the necessary signal and sets out the relevant framework for efforts to counter that new threat.

The critical problem of piracy in Somalia also persists. The sanctions regime against that country, which for an extended period has had no border-control regime, has long been in effect. However, Somali pirates freely receive and have available to them sophisticated weaponry, boats, Global Positioning System navigation devices and other equipment necessary for their criminal activities.

Specifically for such situations, it would be useful to have an overview of the problems concerning the control of borders, illicit trafficking and movements across them. It is important, when considering cases of illicit cross-border movement and trafficking, that the Security Council act strictly within the framework of its mandate to maintain international peace and security, that it not encroach upon the purview of other international organizations or bodies, and that it avoid engaging in revamping the existing international system of cooperation in the area of border protection.

The current draft presidential statement, based on the outcome of today's meeting of the Council, requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive assessment of United Nations activities in assisting States to counter various types of illicit cross-border trafficking and the movement of terrorists and their finances. We believe that it is important that the report reflect the priority areas I have addressed and that it take into account the measures that have already been clearly taken by the Security Council, which remain in effect.

Mr. Menan (Togo) (*spoke in French*): The choice of the theme of securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking is of great interest to Member States, especially those of us in the West Africa subregion, because that issue goes to the heart of the matter discussed by the Security Council last February with regard to our region. My country would therefore like very much to thank the United States for having proposed this subject to be considered by the Council.

The quality and speed of means of transport, the development of information and communications technologies, as well as the policies promoting the formation of groups in the subregion, have today facilitated the free movement of persons and goods across borders, thereby creating enormous difficulties in controlling borders. Thanks to the ease of inter-State transport and the loosening of border controls, we have seen the flourishing of all kinds of illicit trafficking. That is due to the fact that borders, especially in developing countries, generally remain quite porous and those countries do not have modern means for controlling their borders. Insufficiently controlled borders give rise to an environment in which we see a proliferation of spontaneous contextual practices that have no legal status within those States.

For those reasons, borders have become completely lawless spaces in some of our countries, where all types of activities flourish, including trafficking in weapons, drugs and natural resources, as well as trafficking in human beings, illegal migration, illicit trafficking in goods, corruption, money-laundering and terrorist activities — all of which can jeopardize the peace, security and the stability of States.

It is therefore no exaggeration to say that border zones obey a logic that goes well beyond the sovereignty of States. Criminal groups moving across borders are well equipped and quick to adapt to new situations or relocate their operations in order to avoid detection. They can take over entire regions of a country where Governments lack the technical means needed to counter such groups. They make substantial profits from their activities, which often flourish to the detriment of vulnerable persons, such as the victims of human trafficking, migrants and child soldiers.

The activities of such groups have led to an increased feeling of insecurity, felt by other countries as well, and they raise the issue of the management of borders and the subsequent matter of relations with neighbouring States.

International legal instruments, such as the 2003 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its related protocols, on the trafficking of persons and the illicit trafficking of migrants, the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, have all sought to address the need to counter those new threats to peace and security.

Nevertheless, the threat posed by factors linked to securing our borders and combating illicit movements is greater than ever, even greater than when those legal instruments came into effect. This is why the quest for appropriate responses to new transnational threats should be a priority for the international community.

Securing borders and combating illicit trafficking and cross-border movement require human, material and financial means, which are quite significant and often beyond the reach of many States individually. Many States do not have an effective means of providing surveillance and control of borders. An overall integrated and holistic approach on the part of the international community will make it possible to meet the challenges and insecurity generated by illicit border trafficking. The value added of such an approach lies in working in a coherent way at the global, regional and transregional levels to fight threats that State mechanisms are unable to counter, and in adapting our responses to challenges in the field.

The threats posed by illicit cross-border trafficking and organized crime to their sovereignty, stability and security have led the States of West Africa to take measures to reduce the risks arising from our porous borders. At the subregional level, in addition to the four-State agreement among Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo to fight transborder crime, in 2009 my country and Ghana signed a memorandum of understanding between our security, law enforcement, police, customs and immigration services to fight transnational organized crime. Moreover, the Heads of State and Government in the Co-Prosperity Alliance Zone, comprised of those same four countries, also hold regular consultations on combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Also at the subregional level, with the help of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), we have developed a cross-cutting multilateral strategy based on shared responsibility, called the UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014.

At the national level, Togo has responded to the issue with various measures. Among them are the creation of our central anti-drug and anti-money-laundering office and a national narcotics laboratory, which help the national police and customs in their respective duties. Moreover, our integrated national plan includes several steps undertaken with the technical and financial assistance of development partners. Those have led to the establishment in February 2011 of an integrated container control unit in the port city of Lomé, and a national financial data centre at the Lomé international airport.

Despite those initiatives, and given the weak operational capacity of the States of the West Africa subregion, funding and capacity-building for national agencies are necessary and require the ongoing support of the international community. Now is an opportune time to express our gratitude to the United Nations, especially the UNODC, which has consistently helped to strengthen the capacities of national institutions.

Given the magnitude of the problem, Togo hopes that the Secretary-General will study the issue and

propose approaches and solutions to bolster existing mechanisms.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing.

With increasing globalization, the links and exchanges among countries have grown ever closer as the global movement of materials and people accelerates. At the same time, the problem of illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, exemplified by arms proliferation, drug trafficking and the spread of terrorism, is ever more serious. Lately, arms proliferation in West Africa and the Sahel region and the turbulence in Mali have raised widespread concern. Granted, arms proliferation in the region has its own history, but recent regional conflicts have aggravated it.

I wish to take this opportunity to emphasize three points related to strengthening international cooperation in fighting illicit cross-border trafficking and movement.

First, border management falls within the sovereignty of Member States. National Governments shoulder the primary responsibility for strengthening their border and customs control and for preventing and fighting all types of illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. We hope that countries, in accordance with relevant United Nations and Security Council resolutions, will fulfil their obligations under relevant international conventions and international law, improve domestic legislation, strengthen interdepartmental coordination and cooperation, increase law enforcement capabilities and take practical steps to strengthen border management.

Secondly, we support international cooperation in fighting illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. Such cooperation should focus on assisting countries in need of capacity-building. In the meantime, countries differ from one another in their border management practices. While providing assistance, the international community should fully respect the national circumstances, desires and choices of countries receiving aid, adhere to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States.

Thirdly, it is essential to bring into full play the advantages of the various United Nations agencies so as to create synergy. In assisting Member States to strengthen their border management capacities, it is advisable to fully take advantage of existing United Nations agencies, including, for instance, by formulating best practices. The various United Nations agencies should, in accordance with their respective terms of reference and specialties, properly allocate tasks and strengthen their coordination. The Security Council has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It should therefore focus its attention on illicit cross-border trafficking and movement that threaten international peace and security, and avoid duplication of labour and disrupting the functions of other United Nations bodies.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): We welcome the initiative of the United States to streamline United Nations action on illicit trafficking and movement of persons and goods in areas where there is overlap, and we thank the Secretary-General for his briefing. We agree that there is a need to discuss efficient structures for assisting States in dealing with widespread illicit cross-border trafficking and movement of goods, funds and individuals, which can pose or exacerbate threats to peace and security. In that regard, we would like to stress that the Council has already repeatedly addressed threats to international peace and security posed by cross-cutting issues such as drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking.

In our view, it is important to bear in mind that open borders in themselves should not be seen as threats. Interconnectedness and the free legal movement of goods and people are things to aspire to, not to condemn. However, they need to be balanced with effectively fighting some very real threats posed by illicit transfers, which can be exacerbated by poorly managed borders. We would therefore commend an assessment of United Nations capacities as an essential step towards identifying possible fields of overlap and room for improvement. We believe that the Secretary-General would be well placed to undertake such a task.

I would like to make a few brief observations. First, we should bear in mind that there is a limit to streamlining. Nuclear materials, weapons, dual-use goods, drugs and people crossing borders each require different approaches and means of cooperation. We would also like to stress that streamlining should not lead to decreasing the efficient implementation of sanctions in any way. On the contrary, we see further improvement in the implementation of sanctions as an essential contribution to securing borders.

Secondly, illicit trafficking and movement of goods, funds and individuals do not necessarily constitute a threat to international peace and security. In many cases they are adequately dealt with by national law enforcement authorities. However, illicit trafficking and movement can have an impact on national and international security when issues such as terrorism or arms proliferation are at stake. Organized crime, drug traffickers and traffickers in human beings obviously also benefit from inadequately managed borders. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime therefore rightly addresses the improvement of border management structures.

Thirdly, when combating illicit trafficking and the movement of goods, funds and individuals, States face a number of challenges resulting from the overall goal of maintaining free global trade, on the one hand, and responding to safety and security needs on the other. For example, long borders require high numbers of personnel and highly developed risk assessments. Border protection needs qualified and well-equipped personnel. It is in the nature of illicit trafficking and movement to seek to overcome existing border-protection mechanisms. Therefore, reliable and sustainable organizations are necessary that, besides many other challenges, are resistant to corruption.

Looking at United Nations efforts to help Member States tackle those challenges, we would like to stress the importance of capacity-building and institution-building. Those elements are key to enabling functioning State institutions to adequately differentiate among the various goods and persons crossing their borders. With regard to capacity-building, I would like to mention that Germany has supported a number of projects, such as providing technical aid in the framework of a customs data project.

Also, in peacekeeping operations, the reconstruction of border control capacities should be given particular attention where appropriate at an early stage. In that regard, it might be worthwhile to explore how United Nations police could assist in enhancing such capacities by providing support for the early reconstruction and capacity-building of border protection entities. In that regard, Germany supports the African Union Border Programme, aimed at the demarcation of borders, cross-border cooperation and capacity development.

Last but not least, national border-management efforts should be embedded in close international cooperation with neighbouring States as well as regional and international organizations. In the case of the Schengen Area in Europe, regarding the movement of persons and goods inside the single European market, there are generally no internal border controls. Border control, monitoring and security are not primarily ensured by each sovereign State member, individually, but through regional cooperation.

The draft presidential statement that the Council will adopt today also rightly stresses the important role of regional organizations and underlines the need for regional strategies and United Nations support for regional cooperation.

Germany has for a long time been committed to a comprehensive approach to curb the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. For several years now, Germany has been a strong supporter of projects of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) aimed at capacity-building in the security sector. I would also like to mention our support for the UNODC Global Container Control Programme, aimed at ensuring effective control of container cargo in some West African countries in order to suppress and prevent drug trafficking.

Within the European Union (EU) framework, we contribute to the EU Sahel strategy, which addresses both development and security issues and aims at strengthening regional cooperation.

Mr. Musayev (Azerbaijan): Allow me to begin by thanking the United States presidency for convening this important open debate on threats to international peace and security and securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. We also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

Azerbaijan joins the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on the issue reflected in the letter and annexes that will be circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/2012/257).

Illicit cross-border trafficking in weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials; trafficking in arms, drugs, human beings and conflict minerals; and the cross-border movement of terrorists, organized criminal groups and their funds have an impact on international peace and security and

the potential to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, jeopardize domestic and regional stability and economic development and fuel conflicts. While each of those phenomena separately constitutes a broad matter for discussion, and has been extensively dealt with by the United Nations, today we are focusing on the border aspects and on how to better secure our borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement.

As a critical pillar of national security, border protection is a matter of national sovereign authority and the responsibility of States. Through better protection of their borders against threats to national security, States prevent the cross-border spillover of illicit trafficking and movement from inside and outside of their territories and thereby contribute to international peace and security.

Illicit cross-border trafficking and movement involves a network of actors in different countries. Such a network often spreads its zone of operation beyond the boundaries of just one region and becomes transnational, linking up local actors with a much broader web of players in other regions who take advantage of malfunctioning border management systems and other factors existing in a country in order to establish and enhance their operations.

At the same time, securing borders against illicit trafficking and movement does not imply toughened border crossing procedures, which may create serious impediments to legal cross-border activities. States must therefore ensure that strong national border control, management and export control systems are in place that will effectively prevent illicit cross-border activities while promoting the free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments across borders.

It is also obvious that, in a globalized world, developing and maintaining cooperation among neighbouring States on border-related issues at the political, executive and operational levels is of paramount importance. In fact, such cooperation only adds to the effectiveness of national border-control and management systems. However, cooperation among States will not be possible without due regard for the basic norms and principles of international law, namely, respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, the inviolability of internationally recognized borders and the principle of good neighbourly relations.

Weak border control and management systems are among the main factors conducive to the spread of illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. International organizations, including United Nations entities and the World Customs Organization, as well as regional organizations, have initiated various projects and programmes on improving the border control and management capacities of States. While welcoming such initiatives, and in certain instances becoming a beneficiary State, we nevertheless want to emphasize that the relevant projects and programmes must not be based on the one-size-fits-all approach. There are some situations where certain border-related initiatives have been designed with total disregard for the national security concerns and border priorities of a beneficiary State.

Instead, such initiatives must be tailored to address the individual needs of States, upon their request and with their involvement, and take into full account the security situation of a State and its surrounding political geography. It is also absolutely necessary that those organizations exert the maximum effort to avoid duplication with other existing initiatives.

The sensitive geographic location of Azerbaijan makes it vulnerable to transborder threats such as international terrorism; illegal migration; transnational organized crime; arms, drugs and human trafficking and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The existence of those threats requires devoting particular attention to the security of our borders. At the same time, border management and export controls are important components of critical energy infrastructure protection. Azerbaijan is therefore doing its utmost, at the national level and through close cooperation with our neighbours and international partners within our bilateral security programmes, as well as with international organizations, to maintain comprehensive national border control and management, as well as export control systems.

Despite such efforts, Azerbaijan is unable to exercise control over a considerable part of its State border owing to the continued military occupation of its territories. The lack of sovereign control by the legitimate authorities of Azerbaijan over those borders creates favourable conditions for illicit cross-border

trafficking and movement in and beyond those territories.

Azerbaijan looks forward to a report by the Secretary-General on a survey of United Nations assistance to Member States to counter illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. At the same time, any survey and assessment should, in our view, be confined to the activities of United Nations entities and should avoid providing an assessment of the border-related needs and capabilities of individual Member States in an attempt to justify the relevance of certain programmes.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Madam President, for having organized this debate, which provides the Council with the opportunity to examine how the United Nations system can better help States to secure their borders against illicit trafficking and flows. I associate myself with the statement to be made shortly by the head of the European Union delegation.

Illicit cross-border trafficking and flows encompass various phenomena. Some of them certainly constitute direct threats to international peace and security, for example, the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction-related goods and technologies related to. Others can indirectly harm regional and international stability and security. I am thinking, for example, of a phenomenon that we see in a number of crises that the Council has been called on to address. Money stemming from the trafficking of natural resources fuels the illicit trade in weapons, which, in turn, increases regional instability.

When the consequences of such cross-border flows and trafficking threaten international peace and security, the Council has the responsibility to address those issues. The Council has already fully taken into account that growing threat in a number of specific areas, such as the fight against terrorism with resolution 1373 (2001) and the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the prevention of terrorism by means of weapons of mass destruction with resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions. That is also a key element in the effectiveness of sanctions decided by the Council.

Moreover, in February 2010, the Council, in adopting presidential statement S/PRST/2012/4, acknowledged the increasing danger posed by cross-border threats. At last, it is increasingly taking note of the regional dimension, as it did on West Africa and the Sahel in February by noting the threat to international peace and security posed by transnational organized crime (see S/PV.6717).

The approach that we are taking today is to consider the issue of illicit trafficking and flows from the perspective of borders, which are crossing points for such trafficking. Here, it is not a matter of having a theoretical debate on the various phenomena encompassed by the notion of illicit trafficking and flows, but rather of trying to provide concrete responses on the ground.

States have the key responsibility for border control. However, we know that criminal networks often adapt more rapidly than State structures to the opportunities provided by globalization. States sometimes do not have the necessary capacities to effectively monitor their borders and to combat illicit trafficking; hence, the importance of responding through international cooperation and the need for States to have the necessary capacities in order to be able to implement their international obligations with regard to border control. In that regard, efforts to better help those States requesting assistance in that area can be made.

In order to address such illicit flows, many strategies and mechanisms to assist States that need such assistance are already in place. We commend ongoing projects that make it possible to tackle such flows at the regional level. As an example, I would like to cite the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Strengthening cooperation among States is important; hence, France's initiative in 2011 — in the context of its presidency of the Group of Eight — to address the fight against cross-border cocaine trafficking. Moreover, I would like to recall that, within the European Union, mechanisms exist to combat threats related to smuggling and the trafficking of goods and persons.

As the Secretary-General mentioned, there are many United Nations structures, be they institutions, programmes or bodies of the Security Council, currently cooperating with States to help them to counter such phenomena. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular, plays a key role in such issues, especially within the context of its regional programme for West Africa.

The tasks undertaken by the various United Nations structures often have much in common, such as assessing the position of States and providing technical assistance, and may overlap. Even when they focus on specific areas, they can provide effective external assistance. For example, when a State benefits from a technical assistance programme to counter proliferation and to combat terrorism relating to weapons of mass destruction under the 1540 Committee, or when it strengthens export control mechanisms or its customs system for that purpose, a State more generally further secures its borders, which helps it to further counter other kinds of trafficking. Thus, there are many areas for possible synergies.

International peace and security can only benefit from more efforts to prevent illicit trafficking and flows. There are many international and regional initiatives. It therefore seems particularly timely that the Council is today requesting the United Nations to assess its work on State support in that regard. In our view, such an assessment should be in the form of specific recommendations aimed at increasing consistency and effectiveness, while drawing the greatest benefit from the initiatives of other international and regional organizations that play a role in that area.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): At the outset, allow me to thank you, Madam President, for convening this debate on issues related to illicit cross-border trafficking and the movement of goods, funds and individuals. We also thank the Secretary-General for his statement earlier today. We align ourselves with the letter dated 24 April 2012, contained in document S/2012/257, from the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, addressed to the President of the Council.

South Africa remains deeply concerned about the challenges and threats posed by the illicit cross-border trade in conventional arms, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, transnational organized crime, the movement of terrorists and their funds, drug trafficking, and trafficking in conflict materials, minerals and persons. The illicit cross-border movement of goods, funds and materials has the potential to create regional instability.

We have seen recent instability in West Africa and the Sahel brought about by the challenges posed by weak structural border-management controls and exacerbated by the crisis in Libya. The region has become awash with illicit weapons and other illicit goods, which has threatened the peace and security of several States in the region, including Mali and Guinea-Bissau. Such illicit trafficking and movements could constitute challenges to international peace and security and go to the very heart of each State's territorial integrity and sovereign responsibility to enact the necessary relevant legislation and related Government regulations and administrative measures and to set up or constantly improve implementation structures and systems. In that context, South Africa wishes to highlight the centrality of the principles of the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States.

Those principles are key to addressing the challenges posed by the illicit cross-border trafficking and movement of goods, funds and individuals, as that involves the maintenance of effective national border controls and the effective management by each individual State of its financial architecture.

However, not all States can address those issues without assistance from cooperating partners and the relevant organizations. There are many States that could benefit from assistance and cooperation in building their capacities to address those challenges and threats, and, in doing so, all States are entitled to seek and receive the relevant cooperation and assistance, on voluntary basis, upon their request and subject to whichever bilateral terms or arrangements they may agree to.

South Africa believes that a report containing an assessment of how the United Nations can play a better role in such cooperation and assistance efforts may contribute to the ability of States to deal with those challenges. Such a report submitted by the Secretary-General should take a holistic and integral approach and have a system-wide focus. My delegation believes that such an assessment could help improve the assistance efforts made by the United Nations and play an important role in assisting all States in setting up and implementing effective border controls, export controls and financial management systems and processes that could address those challenges.

South Africa believes, however, that in the implementation of assistance efforts, State sovereignty and the mandates of the relevant organs of the United

Nations should be respected. Based on such an assessment, different organs of the United Nations could take up matters raised in such a report in line with their relevant mandates. In addition, my delegation is of the view that the Security Council, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, as set out in Article 24 of the Charter, may then take up issues that are relevant and fall within its mandate.

In conclusion, let me say that we are pleased to note that there is wide interest in this debate from the broader membership of the United Nations. This is testimony to the importance attached to this issue by all States Members of the Organization.

South Africa urges the Secretary-General, in preparing the report that is envisaged in the presidential statement that we intend to adopt, to take into account all views expressed by Member States.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): I wish to thank you, Madam President, for having initiated this discussion on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States in securing their borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing, which set out what the United Nations system is doing to address these issues and the challenges which it faces.

In this age of globalization, it is increasingly important to ensure that borders are managed effectively. The threats all of us face from the illicit movement of goods and people are real and are felt on both a national and a global scale. The benefits of an interconnected world and developments in technology are many, but they are also available to those who seek to cause harm. The international community needs to work collectively to identify and tackle those threats in a coordinated way. At the same time, it needs to ensure that through effective border management and the facilitation of legitimate flows of people and trade, the global economy is given space and encouragement to grow and develop. I believe that it is possible to balance both of those goals.

Control over borders is one of the attributes of sovereignty, and it is obviously a matter for individual States to decide how best to defend their own. But there are many parallels between different systems, and we can learn from one another. Maintaining a secure border involves detection, interruption, disruption and prevention as far upstream in the process as possible. It is about making sure that the right people are in the right place at the right time, with the right information.

Living on a proud collection of islands at the north-western edge of Europe, we have long recognized that our borders cannot effectively be secured in isolation. As well as a strong visa regime, robust information technology systems and a professional border force, the United Kingdom's border controls rely heavily on collaborative working partnerships to target illicit flows — partnerships which we have developed with other countries, the European Union, the United Nations and other organizations. The United Kingdom is looking to build on those partnerships, using an intelligence-led, multidisciplinary approach to identify and target key threats and to increase our sharing of best practices.

It is clear that the work of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security often includes the need to take measures to address illicit flows across borders. These can involve the array of restrictive measures put in place in specific country regimes, for example, arms embargoes and targeted asset freezes. But they also include more wide-ranging thematic measures aimed at addressing global threats from terrorism or weapons of mass destruction.

The Council also needs to look at evolving threats and challenges such as the narcotics trade, people trafficking and transnational organized crime, as it has done in relevant situations in the past.

In ensuring the implementation of any sanctions measures it has imposed, the Council has created mechanisms to facilitate and assist. These range from standing bodies such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to the country-specific panels or groups of experts that assist sanctions committees in their work.

Madam President, looking at the concept note (S/2012/195) that you circulated for this debate, it is clear that there is a host of other United Nations entities and agencies that are active in this field. Better coordination of all United Nations bodies involved in the fight against illicit flows, working in partnership with the European Union and other partner organizations, can only bring benefits.

A lot of good work is going on, but there is also room for review and constructive assessment.

Dissatisfaction is normally a concomitant of ambition, so it is right that the Council will, in the presidential statement that we will adopt shortly, set out the need for an ambitious report which surveys the United Nations system and thereby provides the Council with assessments on the basis of which we can consider further steps to improve United Nations assistance to Member States in this area.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): At the outset, we would like to associate ourselves with the letter (S/2012/257) sent to the Security Council by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement regarding the theme of this open debate. We also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

The United Nations Charter creates a clear division of work among its various organs. The allocation of certain powers to the Security Council was duly contextualized in both substance and scope. Accordingly, while all Member States agree to implement Article 25 of the Charter, it is with the clear understanding that the functions and powers of the Security Council are confined strictly to Article 24 of the Charter.

Accordingly, we believe that the Security Council, which acts on behalf of Member States, must fully observe all Charter provisions, as well as all General Assembly resolutions, which clarify its relationship with the General Assembly and other principal organs. Similarly, no action by the Security Council should undermine the United Nations Charter or the relevant multilateral instruments or international organizations established in this regard, or the role of the General Assembly.

Securing borders falls within the sovereign purview of Member States. This core function of State sovereignty cannot be arrogated by any external or international institution. Only a sovereign State itself can decide how to protect its borders, fortify their security and ensure that the movement of goods and people across its borders does not pose a threat to it or to other States.

The issue of border security should become a concern of the Security Council only in those specific situations which pose a threat to international peace and security. Conceptually, it is almost impossible to lump all kinds of cross-border trafficking and movement under the rubric of some single term or concept. The mutual cooperation of States in the fight against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement can be achieved only through a coherent and coordinated approach that respects relevant mandates and accepts the basic principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Pakistan acknowledges the well-meaning efforts of the United States to bring to the fore an important aspect of United Nations mechanisms' existing capacities to assist the efforts of Member States in addressing illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. Like many of our Security Council colleagues, we believe that an overall assessment of the United Nations capacities, including possible overlaps and needed overhauling, must be addressed by the General Assembly and relevant United Nations bodies that deal with the corresponding cross-cutting issues in a holistic fashion. We stand ready to cooperate and address this issue in its broader framework within the General Assembly setting. Within the Security Council framework, this exercise has to be restricted to those issues and threats that are addressed by the Security Council, in accordance with its mandate.

We therefore look forward to a report of the Secretary-General that would provide a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations relevant work to help Member States counter illicit cross-border trafficking and movement that have been addressed by the Security Council as threats and challenges to international peace and security in specific contexts and situations. It is our considered view that, in order to have a well-rounded assessment, the views of Member States on this subject would provide needed clarity and practical solutions. Similarly, the report must follow the logic of the treaty obligations of Member States under various instruments and should not try to influence the organizational aspect of various venues of discussion on border security.

Pakistan has taken strenuous and substantive steps to ensure that a comprehensive border control regime is in place that is in accordance with Pakistan's international obligations. We are also committed to working together with the international community to address the comprehensive issues involving illegal cross-border trafficking and movement, with a view to effectively constraining the spread of transnational threats. In this regard, the importance of addressing the root causes of such illegal cross-border trafficking and

movement, including the factors affecting supply and demand, cannot be overemphasized.

The President: I will now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the United States of America.

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his important statement and for his participation in today's open event. I wish to thank Council colleagues as well for their thoughtful contributions to today's event and the preparations for it.

In our interconnected world, our system of collective security is only as strong as the weakest links in the chain. One of those weak links today is the poorly secured borders that are exploited for the illicit transfer of arms and drugs; of materiel for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; of terrorists and their funds; of conflict minerals; and even of human beings, a modern-day form of slavery. Such illicit transfers across borders increasingly undermine the sovereignty and internal stability of Member States and can threaten international peace and security. The dangers posed by these transfers are not limited to fragile or particularly vulnerable States. They affect us all.

The Security Council has often addressed these transfers individually, in specific regional contexts. For example, we have examined how illicit arms transfers have exacerbated instability in the Sahel and fuelled long-standing conflict in Somalia and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We have seen how arms smuggling from Iran, in violation of United Nations sanctions, exacerbates conflict in the Middle East and supports terrorist groups worldwide. We have also discussed how drug trafficking has directly contributed to internal disorder in Guinea-Bissau. These are just a few examples.

The Security Council has been involved in the question of illicit trafficking and movement for a long time, but we have tended to look at each trafficked item in isolation from the common feature they share — the vulnerabilities at poorly secured borders that are too easily exploited by nefarious networks.

States already understand very well how important it is to control their borders and often ask for international assistance in doing so. States recognize their self-interest in protecting their territory and people from these interrelated phenomena that threaten their sovereignty, corrode governing institutions and undermine internal security. States also have international obligations, including those derived from Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and including United Nations sanctions, that require them to intercept or control contraband.

There are already significant bilateral, multilateral and regional efforts under way to help States defend their borders, and these efforts should be supported and encouraged. Today, however, we focus on the United Nations operational capacity. We believe that the United Nations system could improve its help to States to secure their borders and to put in place related intelligence and law enforcement cooperation, customs standards and administrative and legal frameworks. That is why we have convened this debate today.

Many elements of the United Nations system, as well as national, regional and other multilateral organizations, are already doing excellent work to assist States in protecting their borders and in implementing their relevant international obligations. In response to requests from Member States, organizations as diverse as INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization, United Nations peacekeeping missions and the International Atomic Energy Agency provide such assistance.

Also engaged in this work are a number of bodies created by the Security Council, such as the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and our sanctions committees and their expert panels. The United States fully supports all these efforts. We are also committed to helping fund efforts by the United Nations Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Border Management to enhance international, regional and national policy and practice relating to border management in the context of countering terrorism.

These bodies are all doing important work, but because they are so narrowly focused on specific threats, they may be unaware of overlapping efforts or miss opportunities to pool knowledge and expertise. After all, these different bodies are often evaluating the same State institutions and legislative frameworks, providing similar technical advice and appealing to the same pool of donors for assistance. Put simply, they are

all working on different aspects of the same problem — how to help States that want it and need it to better secure and control the flow of illicit goods across their borders. Surely there is scope to streamline and strengthen the United Nations capacity to help States secure their borders, while realizing efficiencies in the process.

The Security Council can make an important contribution to this effort, but it is vital that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and others be fully engaged as well. This complex, cross-cutting challenge cannot be tackled effectively by any single body alone. Many United Nations actors play a role in these capacity-building efforts, and it is logical that they work better together as one United Nations system to assist Member States. We therefore welcome the Security Council's request to the Secretary-General to provide a diagnostic assessment of these efforts. The Security Council needs a birds-eye view of them across the United Nations system. The United States hopes that the Security-General's report will also offer any proposals, as appropriate, for improvements.

By helping Member States to secure their borders, the Council can respond to and, we hope, help prevent these evolving threats to international peace and security. With this goal in mind, we look forward to revisiting this issue in six months and to taking effective action.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

> "The Security Council reaffirms its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
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> "The Security Council acknowledges the evolving challenges and threats to international peace and security, including armed conflicts, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons, transnational organized crime, piracy, drugs and human trafficking. The Council has addressed, when appropriate, related to these challenges and threats, illicit cross-border trafficking in arms, drug trafficking, trafficking by non-State actors in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, trafficking in conflict minerals and the movement of terrorists and their funds in violation of United Nations sanctions regimes imposed by the Security Council in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and other decisions taken under Chapter VII, in particular resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) as well as its other relevant decisions (hereinafter — illicit cross-border trafficking and movement). The Council is concerned that such illicit cross-border trafficking and movement contributes to these challenges and threats. The Council recognizes that such illicit cross-border trafficking and movement often involves cross-cutting issues, many of which are considered by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs and bodies.
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> "The Council notes relevant international conventions such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003 and the relevant international conventions and protocols related to terrorism. The Security Council recalls the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as the international tracing instrument and the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.
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> "The Security Council reaffirms the benefits of transborder communication, international exchange and international migration. The Security Council notes, however, that the various challenges and threats to international peace and security posed by illicit cross-border trafficking and movement have increased as the world has become more interconnected. The Security Council notes that, in a globalized society, organized criminal groups and networks, better equipped with new information and communication technologies, are becoming more diversified and connected in their illicit

operations, which in some cases may aggravate threats to international security.

"The Security Council reaffirms that securing their borders is the sovereign prerogative of Member States and, in this context, reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, including the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity. The Security Council calls on all Member States to improve border management to effectively constrain the spread of transnational threats. The Security Council reaffirms that Member States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and shall also give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, and shall refrain from giving assistance to any State against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.

"The Security Council acknowledges that distinct strategies are required to address threats posed by illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. Nevertheless, the Council observes that illicit cross-border trafficking and movement are often facilitated by organized criminal groups and networks. The Council further notes that such illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, which in some cases exploits similar vulnerabilities experienced by Member States in securing their borders, can be addressed by improving Member States' abilities to secure their borders. The Security Council further acknowledges the importance of adopting a comprehensive and balanced approach, as necessary, to tackle the conditions conducive to facilitating illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, including demand and supply factors, and underlines the importance of international cooperation in this regard.

"The Security Council calls on Member States to fully comply with relevant obligations under applicable international law, including human rights and international refugee and humanitarian law, relating to securing their borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, including obligations stemming from relevant resolutions of the Security Council adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The Security Council calls on all Member States to fully respect and implement all of their relevant international obligations in this regard.

"The Security Council encourages Member States and relevant organizations to enhance cooperation and strategies, as appropriate, to combat such illicit cross-border trafficking and movement.

"The Security Council encourages Member States, as well as international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, within existing mandates, as appropriate, to enhance efforts to assist Member States to build the capacity to secure their borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, upon request and by mutual agreement, in accordance with international law. The Security Council commends the substantial efforts already under way in this field.

"The Security Council observes that several United Nations entities, including subsidiary organs of the Security Council, already offer such assistance. The Security Council acknowledges the importance of coherent, system-wide United Nations action in order to offer coordinated responses to transnational threats, including through the use of best practices and exchange of positive experiences from relevant initiatives elsewhere, such as the Paris Pact initiative.

"The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to submit in six months a report providing a comprehensive survey and assessment of the United Nations relevant work to help Member States counter illicit cross-border trafficking and movement, as defined in the second paragraph above."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2012/16.

I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes, in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their text in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): Let me begin by thanking you, Madam President, for your able stewardship of the Security Council this month and for holding this very important debate.

For the people of Israel, this is not an abstract discussion. Day after day, trafficked arms explode in our cities. Day after day, our citizens live with the threat of growing terrorist networks and the States that support them.

It was just over a year ago that a ship named *MV Victoria* set sail on the Mediterranean from the port of Latakia in Syria. From the outside, it looked like an ordinary cargo vessel, but the *MV Victoria* was being used for a mission very different from any job given to the post office or Federal Express. Among a cargo of lentils and cotton, three containers were concealed in the *MV Victoria*'s hull. They held 40 tons of Iranian weaponry — not just guns and TNT, but sophisticated missiles and other weapons normally held only by modern militaries. Intelligence showed that Iran intended to transfer those weapons to terrorists in Gaza.

Fortunately, Israeli forces intercepted the *MV Victoria* before its cargo could reach its intended destination. Yet the weapon containers on the *MV Victoria* held an important reminder for the Security Council. Iran and its ally the Al-Assad regime have absolutely zero regard for the basic norms and laws of the international community. They systematically violate resolution 1860 (2009), and many others, transferring sophisticated weapons to terrorists in Gaza, Lebanon and well beyond. The consequences of their illegal smuggling activity can be measured in the blood of many innocent civilians and the spread of instability throughout our region. Each Iranian rocket is armed with a warhead that could cause a political earthquake well beyond Israel's borders.

In his report to the Council last October (S/2011/648), the Secretary-General noted that Hizbullah — a terrorist organization inside the Lebanese State — had reached almost the capacities of a regular army. Hizbullah carries Iranian arms, is trained by Iranian forces, is funded by Iranian petrodollars and acts as a proxy force for the Iranian regime from the hills of South Lebanon to the streets of Bangkok. It is the time for the Council to hold accountable those United Nations Member States that arm, train and fund terrorists. The international community's failure to act today will only initiate a bigger nightmare tomorrow.

The issue of illicit trafficking and the infrastructure that supports it is not merely an Israeli or Middle Eastern or African problem. It is a global problem. Illicit smuggling is made possible by an increasingly connected network of smuggling rings, transnational criminals and terrorists. Such groups are working together around the world as never before. Terrorists understand that if you can smuggle narcotics into a European capital, you can do the same with an anti-aircraft missile. They understand that lawless environments are fertile ground for radicalization, and they recognize that selling drugs can pay for bombs.

Hizbullah's activities offer a disturbing example of this trend. That terrorist organization has established itself as a major player in the global narcotics market, operating a network that extends from West Africa to the Middle East to Latin America. It uses that global network to fund its terrorist activities and provide the logistical support needed to carry them out. The Hizbullah network shows how a gap in one nation's counter-terrorism capabilities is a weak link that can be exploited with potentially devastating consequences for the rest of the world. It is clear that instability in one country can mean catastrophe in another.

Israel continues to share its unique expertise with others in the global fight against these networks. We are closely engaged in counter-terrorism capacity-building initiatives with a number of States and regional organizations in Africa, South America and Asia. Those collaborative efforts cover a wide range of issues, from terrorist financing to aviation security, and from money-laundering to border protection.

Among all the issues related to illicit trafficking, there is no greater threat than the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). I have already described Iran's behaviour without nuclear weapons. We can only imagine how that regime would behave with them, and who they would share them with. The proliferation of WMDs is also great cause for concern in Syria, where instability threatens to give terrorist groups like Hizbullah the keys to the Al-Assad regime's stockpile of weapons. That includes long-range missiles, as well as biological and chemical weapons. As the regime of our region's most dangerous ophthalmologist stands on

the brink of collapse, the international community must keep a very close eye on his collection of very dangerous weapons.

While the *Victoria* remains held in port, other smuggling ships are streaming across the high seas with cargoes full of rockets and explosives. One of those rockets could spark the next major conflict. One of those weapons could be used in the next mass casualty terror attack. One of those bombs could be a nuclear bomb. We cannot allow those who want the *Victoria* to succeed to be victorious. Preventing such weapons from reaching their destination is our collective obligation. Terrorists and their backers depend on divisions in the international community to keep their operations afloat. No nation is free from responsibility, and no nation can escape the consequences of inaction.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I thank the United States for having organized this open debate. I also express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his briefing.

The wide range of problems related to illicit cross-border trafficking and movement has a grave impact on people throughout the world, in developing and developed countries alike. Their consequences are widespread and cross-cutting, affecting human rights, public security and sustainable development. It is not clear, however, that the most appropriate and effective way of addressing all the different manifestations of illicit cross-border activities is by putting them into the same category, as they may have different root causes and implications for peace and security, and thus may require different remedies.

We would argue, therefore, that the diverse problems related to cross-border flows require a case-by-case approach, taking due account of the specific nature of each situation. We may well find that not every incidence of illicit cross-border trafficking poses a threat to international peace and security. It follows that not every kind of trafficking is best dealt with within the Council's purview. Human trafficking, in particular, does not seem to belong there. The same may apply to other forms, such as drug trafficking, which may or may not pose such a threat.

In those cases where trafficking does constitute a threat to peace and security, the Council may have a role to play, in accordance with the Charter. Even then, it must take into account the specific characteristics of each situation and the need to cooperate with other relevant bodies. More often than not, the Council's role should be to focus on encouraging greater coordination of existing initiatives on the ground, as well as on strengthening the capacity of national authorities so that they may better fulfil their responsibilities.

International efforts to curb trafficking depend greatly on enhancing domestic capacities to fight the problem. Coordinating action within the United Nations family is especially important for finding the best ways to help States tackle these challenges. The multiplicity of cooperation tools available should allow assistance to be effectively tailored to the problems faced by each country. Regional and South-South cooperation are also important in helping States improve border protection, as they allow for an exchange of information among countries with similar experiences.

Sustained attention to underlying causes is also critical to addressing illicit cross-border trafficking. Such causes often include weak State institutions, lack of development and social and economic exclusion. The latter is usually a key factor in creating conditions conducive to illicit border trafficking and movement. Reducing poverty and generating opportunity, especially for young people, must therefore be part of any strategy against trafficking.

On the normative side, we must ensure that each form of illicit trafficking is addressed in the context of its own specificity. In the area of cooperation, we must strengthen the capacity, coherence and coordination of the United Nations system to assist States according to their specific needs. By combining efforts on those two fronts, the international community can address current challenges more effectively and prevent them from becoming actual threats to international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: I am speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and

Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the initiative of the United States to discuss strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States in securing their borders against the illicit trafficking and movement of materials, funds and goods, as well as human beings. We should all aim for better coordination of all the United Nations bodies that contribute to the fight against such illicit cross-border trafficking and movements.

As we all know, in the context of globalization borders cannot now be perceived as barriers. The fluidity of circulation of goods, funds and people is of great importance to trade, economic prosperity and human development. Facilitating that, without reducing security, is therefore important for all trade, financial and cultural flows. At the same time, international terrorism and organized crime have increasingly exploited globalization and technological progress to facilitate the development of illicit trafficking and movements, generating illegitimate gains and seriously undermining through corruption and violence the stability and development of States and regions, creating the vicious cycle of an environment conducive to such illicit activities.

For the European Union and its member States, border management is a priority area of action to address and prevent such threats and challenges. Integrated border management, linking migration management tools as well as control of the movement of goods and funds, underpinned by an intelligence-led and multidisciplinary approach, is part of the European Union's comprehensive panoply of weapons in the fight against ever more sophisticated and often interconnected forms and groups of international organized crime and terrorist groups and activities.

The European Union is addressing the threats related to the smuggling and trafficking of goods and persons at borders by applying the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility. The role of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union has recently been strengthened to allow it, for example, to share personal information with the European Police Office (Europol) and other European agencies on those suspected of cross-border crimes and to cooperate more closely with the suspects' countries of origin and transit.

All those efforts are supported by relevant legislation and coherent policies, in particular in the area of the control of illicit movement of goods, funds and persons, transport security, maritime surveillance and international cooperation. EU structures such as Europol, Eurojust, the European Arrest Warrant, the joint investigation teams and police and customs cooperation provide us with efficient mechanisms to better tackle terrorism and organized crime.

Support for relevant United Nations international legal instruments and United Nations programmes of technical assistance, as provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for example, should help to further augment international cooperation aimed at addressing such global threats and challenges.

The fight against illicit cross-border trafficking and movements requires international cooperation, the sharing of best practices and standards and the exchange of information and intelligence in order to develop a comprehensive picture of threats and to facilitate a coordinated approach. Ensuring the proper implementation of sanctions regimes, for which effective border management is also relevant, is important.

Integrated border management is only one element, but a key one, in the global effort to ensure greater effectiveness on the part of the international community in fighting illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. Where efficient tools already developed by organizations such as Interpol, the World Customs Organization, the International Maritime Organization and EU agencies are in place, they should be systematically used instead of being applied as ad hoc solutions, which may negatively impact long-term sustainability and ownership of United Nations assistance. Numerous United Nations agencies are directly or indirectly involved in those domains, with different scopes and mandates, and their enhanced coordination is foreseen.

We wish to assure the Council of our appreciation of the importance of today's topic. The European Union and its member States provide political, technical and financial assistance to United Nations agencies and other partners in numerous regions of the world. We would therefore welcome and stand ready to

assist the proposed diagnostic assessment by the Secretariat in order to focus our efforts in the most effective way possible.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Ms. King (Australia): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this debate. It is clear from our discussion today that many are concerned about the profound and pervasive impact that illicit trafficking can have on security. It is ironic that the very factors that should underpin peace, security and development — namely, the free movement of goods, services, people and finances — are being exploited by transnational criminal networks, proliferators and terrorists to undermine international peace, security and development.

Illicit trafficking takes many forms that are often viewed as separate phenomena. In truth, those criminal activities can often feed off and reinforce each other. Illicit trafficking thrives on and perpetuates organized crime, corruption, weak governance, poverty, unemployment and regional instability. I will focus my comments today on four areas that we believe must be part of the solution. First is the role of regions and regional organizations. Prosperity and security, including border security, begin with regional partnerships.

In our region, the Asia-Pacific region, it is regional initiatives and institutions that have forged consensus on the application of global standards and norms. Australia has prioritized the establishment of such institutions as the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which we co-chair with Indonesia, because they have a real impact on the ground.

But what has characterized the Asia-Pacific response is the dynamism of its established regional organizations, which have adapted their mandates to tackle the threat to regional and economic security posed by illicit trafficking. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum, for example, has established work plans for both transnational crime and terrorism. In the Asia-Pacific region, an effective United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will continue to play a vital role in addressing transnational threats. Australia, together with New Zealand, is funding the first regional transnational organized crime threat assessment for East Asia and the Pacific, to complement and build on the global assessment by UNODC in 2010.

Australia wants to contribute to regional solutions in other parts of the world too. We have been working with the African Union on a series of transnational crime guides to respond to the acute challenges in the Sahel and Maghreb. We are working with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to enhance border control capabilities. This week, we are conducting a workshop with the East African Community to enhance efforts on anti-money laundering and terrorist financing. We support a growing role for the United Nations in responding to regional needs, bolstering the capacities of regional and subregional organizations to develop regional solutions and mobilizing international support for those solutions.

The second important area is capacity-building. The United Nations has a role to play in identifying capacity gaps and coordinating the delivery of technical assistance to build the capacity of border protection and law enforcement agencies. We strongly support the Security Council's model set by the adoption of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), which separately established norms prohibiting illicit trafficking and, importantly, created frameworks for technical assistance to implement those norms.

Similarly, while the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is essentially a political agreement, we see it foremost as a platform for technical assistance. Based on that view, we provide bilateral and regional assistance to countries in the Pacific, Africa and Caribbean to strengthen controls against movements of illicit small arms.

Likewise, a strong and robust arms trade treaty (ATT), which includes small arms and ammunition, must provide capacity-building mechanisms. We will strongly support such provisions at the ATT conference in July.

The United Nations should continue to facilitate assistance through mechanisms that are simple and coordinated. Improving access to capacity-building should be a key aim of the Secretary-General's assessment on the work of the United Nations to counter illicit trafficking.

For us to be effective in tackling illicit trafficking, we need to focus on prevention, based on sound analysis. Resolution 1540 (2004) was groundbreaking. Controversial at the time of its adoption, the resolution has actually been very effective in preventing proliferation and building capacity. We need to think strategically about other preventive measures.

We also need to incorporate measures to address illicit trafficking into United Nations political missions and peacebuilding activities. UNODC and CTED expertise should be drawn on to support mission planning and analytical work for the Security Council, where relevant.

Finally, the United Nations and Member States need to consider illicit trafficking and border protection in the context of broader rule of law and development objectives. Efforts to secure borders will not on their own stem illicit trafficking, and must be pursued hand in hand with strategies to tackle demand, programmes to build institutions and strengthen governance, and efforts to address the underlying socio-economic factors such as poverty and unemployment.

It is vital that the United Nations ensure that its disparate programmes are integrated, efficient and consistent in norm setting. The establishment of the United Nations System Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking is a step in the right direction. We welcome the Council's presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/16) and look forward to the report of the Secretary-General.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Percaya (Indonesia): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's open debate. Allow me also to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his statement on the important issue before us.

Indonesia subscribes to the letter (S/2012/257) submitted by the delegation of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on today's open Security Council debate. In that context, Indonesia is of the view that close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs of the United Nations is essential to effectively addressing existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

Indonesia supports the United Nations efforts within existing mandates and together with other international stakeholders to assist countries, particularly countries that lack capacities and resources, to improve the border security in those countries upon request. Securing borders is the responsibility of the relevant national authorities, but this responsibility is fulfilled effectively when there are adequate capacities and necessary instruments available to Governments.

It is important to also stress that the strengthening of capacities against illicit flows needs to be considered in a comprehensive manner in which there is sustained support for achieving overall political, economic and social betterment. A prospering and aware society with robust and accountable governance structures will be in a better position to implement strong controls over its territorial borders and take full responsibility for the issues concerned.

Transnational illicit flows of materials, goods and people are age-old phenomena, but globalization and technological improvements have enabled issues as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and organized crime to manifest themselves as serious global challenges. Indeed, illicit flows and State legitimacy and security are closely linked.

Non-State actors, such as transnational crime groups, terrorist networks and insurgents, exploit gaps in border security. They tend to thrive in conditions of conflict, poverty, and political instability, undermining the State's legitimacy and security. On the other hand, the weakening of a State's writ and its security apparatus presents opportunities to those non-State actors to enhance their nefarious activities. The international community, in accordance with international law, should help countries in need to strengthen their national systems, and they must undertake vigilant border management.

Indonesia fully recognizes the importance of securing borders against the illegal cross-border movement of people, including terrorists and criminals; as well as goods, including small arms and light weapons, ammunition, explosives, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material; and other illicit materials, such as drugs. In this regard, Indonesia, through a variety of measures, including surveillance, patrols, physical barriers, joint control operations, information exchange, intelligence and

engagement with border communities on control and policing, is carrying out border management.

Indonesia has adopted numerous laws and regulations to prevent and detect the movement of illicit materials and related crimes. A new law on immigration was enacted in May 2011. We expanded our border control management system and strengthened a web-based enhanced system that includes biometrics capture at 27 of our air and sea ports. We pursue the prevention of illegal cross-border movements of people and goods also through international instruments. In 2009, Indonesia ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, along with its two Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. We are also very satisfied with our cooperation with Australia through the mechanism of the Bali Process.

Indonesia is also taking measures to prevent the illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances and their precursors. We established a multi-stakeholder national narcotics body in 2009 and have ratified all three anti-drug conventions under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Terrorist movement across borders is indeed a serious matter that should be addressed. Weak State border management will be a source of exploitation by terrorist networks. Indonesia realizes that cooperation at the international level is needed if States are to overcome such exploitation. To that extent, Indonesia continues to strengthen its cooperation on countering terrorism at every level — bilateral, regional and multilateral. In the multilateral forums, Indonesia has always played an active and important role through the United Nations system and related mechanisms. Indonesia is also proud to have ratified seven international instruments related to the prevention of terrorism, as a gesture of seriousness and commitment to combating terrorism.

At the regional level, we are deeply engaged in combating terrorism with other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and ratified, among others, the ASEAN Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters in 2008, which streamlines legal cooperation on countering terrorism and its financing.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that, in order to develop appropriate border security, a combination of wide range of measures is needed. But the most effective approach is one that is undertaken on the basis of cooperation among the neighbouring countries. Consistent cooperation and coordination among neighbours reinforce individual national control systems and help establish an environment conducive to taking effective action on each side of the border.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Estreme (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation welcomes the opportunity to address the Security Council. We also wish to thank the delegation of the United Nations for having convened this most timely and important debate on the threats posed to international peace and security by illicit flows across unsecured borders. The statement on this topic made by the Secretary-General early in this debate was highly relevant.

In several decisions, the Council has urged States to take measures and to cooperate in defending their borders against trafficking in drugs, weapons, persons, the movements of terrorists and their financial assets, and other threats to State sovereignty. Since these threats are often interlinked, a holistic approach would seem to be the most appropriate to developing adequate responses at the national, regional and international levels. Such a holistic approach should not and cannot ignore the unique features of certain threats. Moreover, these threats do not always go hand in hand. For example, while terrorism is often financed by other criminal activities, in other crimes terrorism is not necessarily part of the equation.

It is necessary to acknowledge that border control is the primary responsibility of each State through the coordinated action of the various agencies with jurisdiction in the matter. Nevertheless, Argentina believes that it is critical to continue strengthening the cooperation mechanisms among neighbouring countries so that control can be ensured through the adoption of legislation and the building of national capacities to identify possible solutions to the challenges regarding borders.

At the national level, in late 2010 the Ministry of Security was created in my country with the objective of strengthening security and prevention mechanisms, with specific and exclusive jurisdiction in the

prevention and fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime.

At the regional level, Argentina cooperates closely with members of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) and associate member States through the harmonization of national legislation on the control of firearms, ammunition and explosives and policy coordination in the field. It also cooperates with the other countries of the region in strengthening their national capacities to enable full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Cooperation is also carried out with the security forces of neighbouring countries, instrumentalized through bilateral cooperation agreements between gendarmeries and coast guards, and the development of integrated information systems such as that being developed with Brazil on trafficking in persons, to be implemented in 2012.

In our common border region, a joint command made up of police and security forces from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay has been operating in our common border region since 1996 and is playing an important role in efforts to combat illicit trafficking in weapons and ammunition, all form of smuggling, drug trafficking, kidnapping, money laundering and illegal trafficking in persons. It also constantly monitors data on the activities of international terrorism and related crimes.

Those initiatives illustrate an early awareness on the part of Argentina and its MERCOSUR partners as to the need for greater cooperation and coordination to secure their borders and defend themselves against illicit flows.

Although strengthening border security is essential to effectively combat illicit flows, we understand that under certain conditions low levels of development in one or more countries can provide an appropriate context for non-traditional threats to peace and security, such as, among others, terrorism, illicit trafficking in weapons, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime — as has recently become evident in the Sahel.

It is clear to everyone that it is not the task of the Council to assume responsibilities falling to other structures of the system, such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Instead, the heart of the matter lies in thinking about how the Council should consider development issues in its decisions regarding peace and security.

In addition, border security should not come at the expense of, or be used as an excuse to, impede or prevent the exercise of basic human rights such as the rights of migrants, as the Secretary-General mentioned this morning. We do not believe that security should come about at the expense of the rule of law, nor do we accept the idea that human rights violations should be permissible under certain circumstances.

Argentina awaits the assessment of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations with regard to assistance to States in securing their borders against illicit flows. We also look forward to the convening of a broad and transparent dialogue among the entire membership to discuss the Secretary-General's findings and to continue to consider the issue.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for choosing this important theme for today's open debate at the Security Council.

We cannot avoid discussing securing borders against illicit flows if we are to maintain international peace and security, because the illicit cross-border flow of materials, funds, goods and people causes instability in our societies at both the national and international levels. Securing borders is a cross-cutting issue that encompasses organized crime, terrorism and proliferation.

Every sovereign State has the primary responsibility for securing its borders, as well as responsibility not only for inflows but also for outflows from it. While such individual effort is necessary for diligent border control, it alone is not sufficient. To secure borders from illicit flows, we, the international community as a whole, need to take a holistic and synergistic approach to our efforts. In that regard, we highly value the active roles of the United Nations and its bodies — such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the various sanctions committees, including the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime — in helping States act in a coordinated manner.

Although the traditional scope of our efforts to control illicit flows is centred on land borders, we have been witnessing rapid expansion in the field. We must begin to recognize that efforts to control illicit flows have to include the sea and the air as well. As a nation bordered on all sides by the sea, Japan has vital interests in securing sea borders to block illicit flows. In addition, although it has no physical boundaries, cyberspace is a frontier that urgently requires greater attention in terms of illegal transactions, transfers of technology and classified information that may be usurped for purposes of organized crime, terrorism and proliferation.

Our success in the fight against illicit flows depends upon how we can best close loopholes that allow such flows. To that end, we need coordinated efforts, at both the international and the national levels. In that regard, we would like to encourage States that have not done so to ratify the relevant conventions, as well as to urge States to fully implement their obligations, including those under Security Council resolutions.

We also believe that combating the transfer and transport of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), missiles and related materials contributes to the improvement of the security of the entire international community. The Proliferation Security Initiative is an international effort to halt WMD proliferation. Japan has actively participated in activities of the Initiative, including by hosting several of its maritime interdiction exercises. Japan has also conducted outreach activities for non-participating countries, particularly in Asia, to enhance the inclusiveness of international non-proliferation efforts.

At the national level, securing borders involves complex coordination of multiple entities, such as customs, immigration and law enforcement bodies. Since they have their own authorities and jurisdictions, even in a country with sophisticated systems it is difficult to make such coordination function in an effective way. Each State needs determination to achieve active coordination. For its part, Japan has operated strict border control in order to prevent illegal inflows and outflows, by means of a cross-organizational and multilayered response that relies on cooperation between our relevant ministries and agencies, the training of personnel and outreach to exporters.

In addition, we recognize that there is an urgent need to improve the capacities and awareness of developing countries to further coordinate our efforts to fight against illicit flows. Every year, Japan holds the Asian Export Control Seminar in Tokyo to deepen understanding of the importance of export control and to exchange views and information in the region, recently with the active participation of sanctions committees, including the 1540 Committee.

Japan has also implemented various programmes aimed at assisting developing countries in building their capacities in the areas of immigration control, air and sea port control and customs. Those programmes include organizing a series of seminars, dispatching experts from Japan, organizing training programmes in the respective countries and providing equipment, such as X-ray inspection tools.

Securing borders extends to people, goods and funds, each of which is covered by its own relevant Government agencies. What is critically important is to connect the distinct bodies responsible for different aspects of border security into a cohesive and comprehensive strategy, and to close any gaps or loopholes. Although we need to avoid any duplication and to continue our discussion on more efficient ways to tackle the issue, we believe that, in some cases, it is beneficial to address the threats generated by illicit flows with a multilayered approach, without being afraid of superimposing our efforts.

Finally, the spread of globalization is making border security more urgent than ever before. Once again, I thank you, Madam President, for your leadership in drawing our attention to this important issue in a very timely manner. Japan will continue to proactively contribute to ensure that every border is secured from illicit flows that could pose serious threats to international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. León González (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba endorses the letter (S/2012/257) addressed by the representative of Egypt to the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Addressing organized crime and illicit acts is an important matter for the Organization. Member States coordinate actions in the General Assembly and in other organs and specialized agencies of the United

Nations system, as well as through relevant international treaties to combat and eradicate scourges such as drug trafficking and the traffic in human beings, the illicit trade in nuclear material, terrorism and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. One of the common traits of all those efforts is the universal, or near majority, participation of Member States, which means that the issue before the Council today — securing borders against illicit flows — exceeds the functions and powers of the Security Council as set forth in Article 24 of the Charter. Yet again, the Council is encroaching upon the functions of other key organs of the Organization.

The General Assembly is in the midst of a discussion on reforming the United Nations. It has adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in that regard, including agreements at the highest level. It is also involved in other conversations on the global struggle against terrorism and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, combating the drug trade, and addressing human trafficking.

The so-called illicit movement described in the concept paper distributed by the rotating presidency of the Council (S/2012/195, annex) in the context of this meeting requires coordinated action by all Member States, including the possibility of participating in decision-making. If the goal is to maximize coordination among existing structures and to avoid embarking on duplicate actions, the General Assembly needs to be in charge.

Neither nuclear proliferation nor the illicit trade in its component parts can be eradicated without the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Some permanent members of the Council are opposed to adopting immediate measures that would establish a time frame for the total elimination of the 23,000 nuclear weapons that still exist. Terrorism cannot be successfully addressed while it is promoted and utilized as a form of statecraft. The drug trade cannot be successfully combated without taking forceful and decisive action in the markets that consume them. The illicit arms trade cannot be eradicated so long as acts of imperialist aggression are being employed to topple Governments, or without prohibiting transfers to non-State actors.

In order to strengthen border security against illicit actions, there undoubtedly needs to be decisive action on the part of States. Governments have the primary responsibility for that task.

Cuba has been subjected to a war consisting of illicit acts for more than 50 years. As a result of terrorist actions, 3,478 people have died and 2,099 have been physically affected. Thousands of weapons and explosives were illegally introduced in Cuba in order to overthrow the Government, and were used to murder innocent people. Cuba is subjected to an adjustment law that stimulates illegal emigration for political ends, with no regard for the means utilized by those involved, who have at times resorted to violence.

Eleven million Cubans suffer from the economic and financial blockade that has for 20 consecutive years been rejected by the Member States of the General Assembly. In what constitutes an extreme expression of savagery and disrespect for the basic principles of civilized coexistence, the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, has been the object of more than 600 attempts against his life. In order to remain within the established time limit, I will not belabour the point with further examples. Moreover, abundant information on these facts is available in the official archives of one of the permanent members of this Council, most of it accessible on the Internet. Cuba has provided the Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee with abundant information that is also available to the general public.

If we truly seek to combat illicit international activities, hypocrisy and double standards must cease. Let all countries unite in genuine cooperation on the basis of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. Cuba will continue to adhere to those principles and to its obligations under the relevant international treaties and agreements. We are ready to cooperate in that spirit with all other Member States, without exception.

Mr. Shin Dong Ik (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to you, Madam President, for organizing this meaningful open debate on securing borders against illicit flows. My appreciation also goes to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, for his thorough and insightful briefing.

The illicit flow of materials, funds and goods, as well as of people, poses grave concerns to international peace and security. In an effort to circumvent tighter national measures and international frameworks against them, those engaged in illicit flows from smuggling, trafficking, brokering, trans-shipment and

re-export have grown smarter and have developed more complicated techniques, even engaging in cyberspace activities.

By contrast, national and international measures to counter them remain static and outdated, and lack the necessary coordination among Member States and international organizations. I believe that if proper measures are not taken to close those loopholes, that trend will pose an ever-growing threat to international efforts to maintain and foster global peace and security. Today's thematic meeting is therefore a timely occasion to accomplish that while simultaneously taking stock of current actions throughout the Organization, with a view towards streamlining and elevating the United Nations toolkit for addressing such a significant problem.

States have the first and primary responsibility to impose domestic measures with respect to securing their borders against illicit flows of every kind. In the same manner, it is also an international obligation; a number of Security Council resolutions and international regulations call upon Member States to establish the necessary measures to fully respect and implement their international obligations in that regard, moving forward to better control illegal activities.

Moreover, as illicit flows continue to cross borders and to occur at the margins of extra-territorial jurisdictions, close regional and international cooperation, including information-sharing and assistance in capacity-building, are badly needed. The Republic of Korea has redoubled its jurisdictional efforts and is determined to contribute to international action to prevent and combat illicit transnational flows.

To that end, the Republic of Korea and Australia, submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities", to the First Committee at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly; the draft was ultimately adopted by the Assembly as resolution 63/67. It encourages States to establish appropriate national laws and to engage in international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit brokering.

I believe the resolution has facilitated discussions within the United Nations framework on the issue of illicit flows, resulting in Member States establishing domestic institutions to enforce their international obligations. The resolution was re-adopted by an overwhelming majority of Member States at the sixty-fifth General Assembly in 2010 (resolution 65/75).

Furthermore, with its well-advanced Internet-based infrastructure, the Republic of Korea has effectively implemented its customs and export controls. Particularly, with respect to non-proliferation, I would like to draw your attention to our "yes-trade" programme, a database and one-stop verification system for dual-use and contraband materials. Yes-trade provides self-classification and classification services for strategic items, and a one-stop service for acquiring an export license, should that be deemed strategic.

Since its launch in 2005, the Korean Government has not only implemented its export control system successfully with that online system, but the Republic of Korea has also presented its merits to countries interested in the system in relevant forums.

In addition, given the new threats of illicit flows in cyberspace, the Republic of Korea, as a leading information technology powerhouse, has proven its active participation in international cooperation and collaboration for cybersecurity.

Our participation includes joining the work of the Group of Government Experts on Information Security and hosting seminars on cybersecurity within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum. We are also running train-the-trainer programmes for law enforcement officials in developing countries to support their capacity-building, on which we place high importance. In order to further contribute to enhancing global efforts to address cybersecurity issues, including illicit flows on the Internet, the Korean Government will host the Conference on Cyberspace in 2013, succeeding the United Kingdom and Hungary.

I hold high expectations for the diagnostic assessment to be prepared by the Secretary-General on options and recommendations to help States with regard to their illicit flows problems. I look forward to hearing those recommendations, and I would like to reassure you of our firm commitment and willingness to closely engage in the issue in the coming future.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation appreciates the convening of this debate, as well as the draft presidential statement that was distributed. We also appreciate the Security-General's report presented during this meeting.

Illicit cross-border trafficking is a subject of concern for Costa Rica, which we are approaching in an integrated and holistic manner while preserving respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Human trafficking, illicit trafficking of weapons, drug trafficking, illegal trafficking of minerals, trafficking of organs and money-laundering all have three common denominators: their relationship with organized transnational crime, the use of local criminal groups and their potential destabilizing effect for States.

Therefore, this debate should be based on a basic principle: the defence of borders against illicit flows does not start with nor end at those borders. The success of that defence is related to institutional capacity and the level of legislative, legal, technical, police and financial capability achieved by States. But it is also essential to develop effective strategies for regional and global cooperation, as well as to promote the contribution on the part of international organizations to providing capacity-building and the coordination of efforts among countries. And that would include the United Nations with all of its relevant bodies, which play a key role.

Organized crime, and drug trafficking specifically, not only affects international peace and security, it also undermines economic and social development and distorts public investment in developing countries, which have to use their scarce resources to combat such crimes, resources that would be better used in health, education and social well-being.

In their enthusiasm to control markets, traffickers bring in weapons, recruit people to distribute them and attempt to generate corruption. By paying their recruits with drugs, they stimulate a domestic market that undermines safety, security and public health. Moreover, money-laundering can be a factor in monetary and economic distortion. In other words, its impact is not just limited to nor can it be approached simply by means of stricter controls.

We need substantive improvement in those areas of course, but, to do just that without looking at the broader scope might end up being counterproductive. And that is why we want to emphasize integrated strategies that take into account aspects related to development and promote opportunities for young people, institutional strengthening, education and prevention.

Such strategies are part of our country's national approach to those issues, and they have led to some success. Such an approach should also be taken in the context of international cooperation to deal with the problem. Costa Rica, like the rest of the Central American region, is part of a transit route between the supplying countries and the largest consumer countries. That is a huge challenge for our region.

For a number of years, we have had an agreement in place for joint patrolling with United States authorities, as well as a cooperation agreement against trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances in the Caribbean region, in which a number of countries participate and of which we are a depository. Both of these are examples of good international cooperation.

However, it is necessary to increase our patrolling capacity in the maritime area, to improve detection capacity in ports on a large scale and to provide technical support for efforts to detect land-based trafficking of weapons and drugs, which have an enormous impact on transit countries.

Since July 2011, Costa Rica has been working to combat activities on the part of criminal groups by focusing on Central American security. On 16 May 2012, in the context of the General Assembly, there will be an open general debate on the matter.

Central America needs decisive and coordinated support from the various bodies of the United Nations in order to develop the potential of what the United Nations is already providing to the region.

We believe that one of the outcomes of today's discussion and that of 16 May, as well as the various presidential statements and resolutions of the Security Council, will be more consistent and integrated action on the part of the United Nations system, including the Security Council, to combat those scourges.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. I intend, with the concurrence of Members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6760 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6760th meeting

Wednesday, 25 April 2012, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. DeLaurentis	(United States of America)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Ms. Jiang Hua
	Colombia	Ms. Moya
	France	Ms. Jaraud-Darnault
	Germany	Mr. Eick
	Guatemala	Ms. Bolaños Pérez
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Morocco	Mr. Taib
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Portugal	Mr. Pinheiro da Silva
	Russian Federation	Mr. Panin
	South Africa	Mr. Wensley
	Togo	Mr. Yagninim
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security

Securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement

Letter dated 5 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/195)

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The meeting resumed at 3.10 p.m.

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Botswana and the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Khazaee (Islamic Republic of Iran): At the outset, I would like to associate the views of my delegation with the contents of the letter (S/2012/257) sent yesterday by the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries relating to the agenda item for today's debate.

In that regard, I wish to reiterate that we believe that the Security Council must stay within its mandate as articulated in Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations and not delve into discussions that fall primarily within the functions and competencies of the General Assembly and other relevant organs of the United Nations.

The item before us today, and its related issues, is one of the most daunting challenges facing the international community today. Lax border controls pose major risks to the security and socio-economic state of all of our nations. The pervasive nature of transnational crime, including drug trafficking, terrorism, human trafficking, the illicit trade in arms and other forms of transnational crime, has made it an international problem that can be curbed only through collective and concerted efforts based on the principle of shared responsibility.

In most of the Council's deliberations on border-related issues, as manifested in a number of resolutions and presidential statements adopted over the past couple of years, there are references to the issue of drug trafficking that have focused specifically on the connection between drug production and security and terrorism and organized crime. In those decisions the Council recognized the need for the international community to come up with an integrated and balanced approach for addressing those problems based on the principle of responsibility.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, because of its location in a region of tension and conflict that is also considered a meeting point for illegal activities such as illicit trading in small arms, organized crime, terrorism and drug trafficking, has incurred much damage resulting from such activities. However, Iran has spared no effort to combat such illegal activities, including preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and human trafficking and has made significant progress in that regard.

On the issue of controlling narcotic drugs, over the years the Islamic Republic of Iran has maintained many tens of thousands of military and disciplinary forces mobilized along its long border areas and has allocated billions of dollars to the fight against narcotic drugs. Iran has also strived to reinforce and reorganize the fortifications, facilities and intelligence control systems of its transit and border checkpoints in order to prevent the entry of trafficking caravans into the country.

All of those measures have resulted in the confiscation of massive volumes of various types of narcotics that have set records among opium and heroin seizures worldwide. We have shouldered a great burden, largely to deal with that threat. Given the fact that the menace serves to create a breeding ground for terrorism, Iran's efforts in that regard have undoubtedly also made a fundamental contribution to the global fight against terrorism.

On the issue of small arms and light weapons, we believe that States bear the primary responsibility for preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all of its aspects, including identifying and solving the problems associated with that trade. Taking that into account, we have developed and established a comprehensive set of laws, regulations, guidelines and directives in the Islamic Republic of Iran that enable relevant national authorities and agencies to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and its associated problems. Based on existing regulations, the illicit manufacturing, possession, storage or trade of any small arms is considered an offence and all individuals involved in such activities shall be arrested and punished accordingly.

Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is one of the most serious manifestations of transnational organized crime. It is an affront to human

dignity and a modern form of slavery. Active cooperation at the global level should be developed in order to efficiently target the demand side of the problem. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a transit country, has also taken serious steps in implementing several projects on enhancing border control in order to better fight transitional organized crime, including human trafficking.

Before I conclude, let me emphasize the need for a review of the relevant regional and international policies and programmes in order to overcome shortfalls and effectively counter such global problems as illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes once more its strong determination to combat those global problems and expresses its readiness to cooperate with other partners to resolve decisively such problems.

Finally, with regard to the baseless allegations made this morning against my country, in particular by the representative of the Israeli regime, I would like to mention that the representative of the Israeli regime, in line with the regime's warmongering and propaganda campaign against my country, has once again used this body to level baseless allegations against Iran.

That regime, with a history of criminal behaviour, referred to arms smuggling from Iran while, with its brutal, killing apparatus, that regime has embarked on many criminal acts, including State terrorism. A vivid example of that is the assassination of Iran's nuclear scientists.

The Israeli regime's baseless allegations against the peaceful nature of our nuclear activities is another attempt to divert the attention of world public opinion from its clandestine development and unlawful possession of hundreds of nuclear warheads, nuclear weapons arsenal and other weapons of mass destruction, which threaten the region as a whole and act against international peace and security.

I therefore do not deem it necessary to respond to those absurd allegations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): The illicit movement of people and goods across borders is as old as borders themselves. But the past two decades have seen unprecedented growth in the scale, scope and impacts of such movements and of the criminal networks that support them. They are complex, well-resourced networks that span continents and are sustained by illicit trafficking and movement of people, funds and goods.

We are now also seeing an alarming convergence of those networks. Constantly seeking points of weakness, they target jurisdictions with weak State capacity. Once established, they further undermine governance, public safety and development prospects and provide fertile ground for crime, instability and terrorism.

The very viability of States is often at risk, with the perpetrators posing serious threats to security and to stable democratic Government. No corner of the globe is beyond their reach, including my own region, the Pacific, which has been targeted by people smugglers, human and narcotics traffickers, and others.

We have learned much about what works in combating and disrupting these illicit networks, not least the importance of robust legislative frameworks, effective border and law enforcement institutions, and good governance for protecting our jurisdictions. But we have also learned that no country can meet these challenges alone. The multinational character and reach of these networks make international cooperation essential. And we have learned to look at those challenges through a broader lens, taking into account the drivers of demand for such activities and the links between different criminal activities.

In the Pacific, national responses have been coordinated through the Pacific Islands Forum Regional Security Committee, and through regional groupings of border control and law enforcement officials. New Zealand also supports its Pacific Island neighbours through bilateral capacity-building programmes. In partnership with the Forum Secretariat, we bring Pacific law enforcement officials together in an annual working group on counter-terrorism, which this year will address the link between terrorism and transnational organized crime. We participate actively in the Trans-Pacific Network on Dismantling Transnational Illicit Networks, and in other regional initiatives of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum. We contribute bilateral assistance to partners in South-East Asia. New Zealand and Australia have also partnered to fund the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime transnational

organized crime threat assessment for East Asia and the Pacific.

In June, building on our chairmanship of last year's meeting of governmental experts on small arms and light weapons, New Zealand will fund a workshop for our Caribbean Community partners on combating the illicit trade in firearms across borders, focusing particularly on maritime security issues, which have so far received insufficient attention within the United Nations.

More integrated and coherent capacity-building would be in everyone's interests, particularly those of small developing States that have the greatest need. In that regard, we should like to stress four points.

First, we should strengthen cooperation and coordination between United Nations agencies and with other international bodies that provide capacity-building. That cooperation must focus on providing consistent advice and more coherent capacity-building support, in line with national priorities. Practical steps could include enhanced information-sharing and more coordinated risk and needs assessments and priority-setting, as well as strengthened cooperation with relevant bodies, such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.

Secondly, the United Nations should consider options for achieving more integrated delivery of assistance on the ground. International donors should support and respect national partners seeking to articulate their own priority needs. Regional organizations also have an important role to play in coordinating international assistance and aligning it with regional priorities. The United Nations should be making better use of such regional partnerships.

Thirdly, the Security Council should ensure more coordinated assistance within its own areas of responsibility. It could, for example, ask the Secretary-General to include in his reports to the Council advice relating to illicit trafficking and movements, and integrate these aspects into mission mandates where they threaten peace and security. This is particularly important in peacebuilding situations, where transnational criminal activity can be an obstacle to sustainable peace. The Council could also instruct its own committees and bodies to coordinate their work with other international actors.

Finally, we must view illicit trafficking and movements through a broader lens than just that of enhanced border controls. That point was well made this morning by the Ambassador of Costa Rica. While strengthening national border and law enforcement institutions is very important, they alone cannot stem the flow of illicit movements unless we contemporaneously address issues such as illicit financial flows and the factors that drive demand. Strengthened coordination of international policy and capacity-building is also required. We welcome recent steps in this direction, such as the establishment of a United Nations task force on transnational organized crime.

The criminal networks behind most illicit international activity have had devastating impacts on many communities. Their ever-expanding reach, sophistication and resources make confronting them a formidable challenge, but they must be confronted. We must ensure that countries and communities that find themselves on the front line of this struggle have the tools and the capacities that they need to do just that. More coordinated and integrated assistance has an important role to play in all of this, and New Zealand hopes that today's debate foreshadows a substantive and new step in that direction.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Jamaica.

Mr. Wolfe (Jamaica): I have this special opportunity to speak on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Let me at the outset thank you, Sir, for having organized today's open debate on the theme "Threats to international peace and security: securing borders against illicit flows". We also express appreciation for the presidential statement S/PRST/2012/16 that was adopted by the Council earlier today.

As a region that, due in part to its geography, is faced with the daily challenge of securing large, porous and remote sea and land borders against illicit flows of guns and ammunition, illegal drugs and the trafficking of persons, this matter is of particular relevance and importance to us. For CARICOM member States, the illicit flow of guns and ammunition, as well as illicit drugs, across our borders not only constitutes a crime and security challenge, but also represents an existential threat to our present way of life and current

efforts being undertaken to establish safe, secure and developed societies for our people.

In recognition of the interlinked nature of growing levels of crime and violence in the region fuelled by the illicit movement of drugs, guns and ammunition, it should be recalled that CARICOM leaders in 2007 established crime and security as the fourth pillar of the region's integration. CARICOM member States — both collectively, through the conclusion of the 2011 CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and individually — have been undertaking a number of measures to secure our borders against illicit flows. In recognition of the potential cross-cutting gains that can be realized through securing our borders, border management and security have thus become one of CARICOM's major security priorities.

Through the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, and in collaboration with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, efforts have been undertaken in various CARICOM member States to harmonize and standardize policies, practices and procedures utilized by border security agencies throughout the region. In addition to the harmonization of policies, numerous training and educational programmes are also being undertaken. In conjunction with our bilateral partners, including most notably the United States through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, CARICOM Governments have been actively taking steps to protect our borders and our societies. Other regional partners that have contributed to our efforts to secure our borders include the Organization of American States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. I wish to express appreciation to the Ambassador of New Zealand for his country's recent assistance to and collaboration with CARICOM Governments.

While the major challenges facing our region are posed by illicit drugs, guns and ammunition, as States parties to the major international terrorism instruments and in view of our commitments to the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, CARICOM member States have also taken steps to secure our borders against the illicit flows of money and equipment that could also be used to commit acts of terror in the region or elsewhere.

At the international level, CARICOM member States have also advocated for greater attention to be given to the issue of border control as a component of the broader crime prevention measures, and specifically to prevent the flows of small arms and light weapons and ammunition to the region, in particular within the context of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. CARICOM has also long advocated that, if we are to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, we must also address the questions of ammunition and the cross-border movement of such weapons.

While Member States have been taking steps at the national and regional levels to secure their borders, much more work needs to be done at the international level. CARICOM is of the view that, given its long-standing experience, the United Nations has an important role to play in assisting Member States to improve their capacity in the area of border security and management, including in facilitating technical assistance.

While there has been significant attention focused on stemming the illicit flows of materiel that could be used to commit acts of terror across borders, similar high-level focus also needs to be directed towards stemming the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons and ammunition. In acknowledging the distinctions between the different categories of illicit items that flow across national borders, a more comprehensive approach to border management and security by the United Nations will, in our view, prove to be a more effective approach in the long run. We believe that greater symmetry in securing borders against the illicit flows of chemical, biological and nuclear material, as well as the illicit flows of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, will significantly contribute to the goal of international peace and security.

CARICOM agrees with the proposal outlined in the concept note (S/2012/195, annex) for an assessment to be conducted of the different United Nations structures, with a view to determining the extent to which they are meeting States' capacity-building needs in this vital area, as well as improving the Organization's ability to help Member States counter

illicit flows. At the same time, however, such a review, and attempts to address this issue in a holistic manner, should not lead to any contraction in the capacity-building programmes and projects currently afforded to Member States in this vital area.

Finally, we would also urge that, in the context of such a review, attention be paid to the specific challenges being faced among countries and regions in the design and delivery of future projects. In that context, we would reiterate our fervent hope that, on the basis of the ongoing discussions between CARICOM member States and UNODC, that the UNODC Caribbean regional office will soon be reopened. CARICOM remains convinced that the office will play a vital role in assisting countries of the region to build their capacity to reduce the illicit flows of guns, drugs and other materiel, including through strengthened border management and security and, in so doing, achieve our goals of a safe and secure region.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Nazarian (Armenia): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this essential debate. We also join previous speakers in thanking the Secretary-General for his briefing.

The frequency with which the Security Council addresses this issue signifies the urgency of the matter. Illicit cross-border flows are taking place on a massive scale and have an enormously harmful impact on security, human rights and social and economic development, in particular on developing countries. As such, securing borders against illicit flows must be a distinct aspect of the overall international peace and security agenda. Secure borders means non-proliferation; it means the compartmentalization of threats; and it means that threats are localized and their spread is prevented, making them much easier to overcome.

The enormity of the threat and its implications necessitate a multilayered approach. Moreover, the successful implementation of the strategic decisions that have been adopted to address the problem cannot be ensured without the coordinated action and support of the United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations dealing with transnational crime and, most important, extensive bilateral cooperation among all countries along the main trafficking routes.

On the national level, for the past decade Armenia has developed effective multilateral cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime and international terrorism. A network of bilateral agreements has been established with many countries. We also work closely with various regional international partners, such as the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), NATO and various United Nations agencies, in such areas as legal reform, improving national law enforcement capacities, border control and intelligence systems.

As a member of the CSTO, Armenia actively participates in its anti-drug operations. That multinational effort brings together not only member States, but also representatives from approximately two dozen States and international organizations. As a result of those efforts, operations carried out since 2003 have resulted in the confiscation of several tons of drugs in the CSTO region. Since 2008, those efforts have had the status of a standing regional anti-drug operation.

In full compliance with its international obligations, Armenia has firm control over its borders and prevents and thwarts any encroachment. In addition, last February, the working agreement between the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) and the National Security Council of the Republic of Armenia established deeper cooperation between the relevant bodies of Armenia and Frontex to fight border crimes and enhance border security.

Secure borders are particularly important in volatile regions such as the South Caucasus, where still-unresolved conflicts have become a convenient excuse for the accumulation of enormous amounts of weaponry, very often in violation of existing treaties and agreements. Illicit flows of armaments, drugs and terrorist groups and terrorist activities remain a matter of concern in the most global sense. Despite the two-decades-long blockade of Armenia and the difficulties and challenges that has created, fighting illicit cross-border flows, and more specifically drug trafficking, Armenia, in cooperation with its partners, has spared no effort in applying preventive measures.

Armenia believes that prevention is the best defence against the spread of illicit cross-border

trafficking, which could also undercut the foundations for recruiting under any pretext. Through education, awareness-raising and improved legislation and implementation mechanisms, we can multiply the effectiveness of our efforts. In that respect, we pay great attention to the training and retraining of the officials working in the Government agencies dealing with counter-terrorism. We would like to express our gratitude to the United States and other partner countries for assisting us in that regard.

In conclusion, I cannot but agree with the statements made by previous speakers to say that no country can counter these problems alone. Their scope and magnitude require even greater levels of innovation and effective regional and international cooperation. We would therefore support the proposal for a diagnostic assessment by the Secretariat aimed at the evaluation and enhanced coordination of our joint efforts in this critical area.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Norway.

Mr. Wetland (Norway): Organized groups and networks conduct ruthless, illegal activities in search of the highest possible profit from smuggling narcotic drugs, arms, minerals, toxic waste, counterfeit products and even human beings. Such crimes undermine development, ruin lives and threaten societies. Many transnational criminals are moving between licit and illicit markets and taking advantage of safe havens and using corruption and violence as tools to reach their goals of maximum profit. The cocaine flow from Latin America that is reaching West Africa and heading towards Europe is one example of how criminals exploit porous borders and weak customs and police control.

The challenge is to crack down on such criminals without hampering or reducing the legal trade. We must ensure that our hunt for criminals does not end up hurting us all, because that is what will happen if we impose general, rigid and time-consuming controls at borders for all goods and all people. It is therefore of great importance that a border strategy include measures for detecting illicit flows before they enter actual border areas. That will require close cooperation and an international exchange of intelligence among law enforcement and customs agencies. The Schengen cooperation of European countries is a tested example whereby borders are generally open but controls and arrests can take place at points along transportation routes. That avoids choke points and delays, which damage lawful trade and productivity.

The Secretary-General's renewed focus on the issue of transnational organized crime and the establishment of the United Nations System Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking are steps in the right direction. We expect that the Task Force will contribute significantly to strategic responses with regard to United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development activities. It has the potential for helping Member States to develop border management strategies that are conducive to developing the legal trade while strengthening their hand in dealing with illicit flows.

The strengthened focus on transnational organized crime in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international level" (A/66/749), which will be discussed at a high-level meeting of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, is another step towards highlighting the need for effective law enforcement cooperation among countries. Close cooperation with other United Nations bodies, such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and Security Council working groups, should serve to strengthen the United Nations in supporting States. International cooperation at the regional level — such as with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, which are supported by the United Nations and the international community — could be models to build on.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) has a key role in helping Member States to meet the threats stemming from transnational organized crime. INTERPOL's I-24/7 communications network and its databases of stolen passports and documents are core elements of border management. The World Customs Organization has a high level of competence in measures related to border control, and it should be a strong partner for the United Nations in building effective strategies.

We need stronger political commitments from Governments in all regions in order to move forward. Law enforcement cooperation is important, but there must also be sufficient focus and investment to tackle organized crime and terrorism.

In conclusion, Norway proposes that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization come together with the aim of working out recommendations to improve measures to strengthen border management.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to say, respectfully, that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has chosen to take part in this debate even though we believe that the subject at hand does not belong on the Security Council's agenda. We caution that this is an attempt to continue to "securitize" the United Nations and usurp the competencies of other organs.

We are concerned by the attempt to address the issue of illicit flows under such different and unrelated headings — which are handled in quite a variety of ways within United Nations bodies — as illicit drug trafficking, conventional arms, smuggling, terrorism and its funding, materials associated with weapons of mass destruction, conflict minerals and human trafficking. It should be emphasized that not every illegal border event is a threat to international peace and security.

There is no denying that the global consumerist and speculation-driven capitalist system — which punishes the world's poor and vulnerable while feeding the unbridled quest for short-term, immoral financial gain — is the root cause of illicit transborder flows. Some experts recognize that such crimes are the Achilles' heel of capitalism. The decadent capitalism of today — brutal, inhuman and nature-despoiling — is the systemic basis of transnational crime. A system that ever more concentrates wealth, without any regard to ethics, is a Petri dish for such crimes.

Despite the grave economic and financial crisis, attempts are made to resuscitate the system through inhumane neoliberal policies that deepen the inequality gap in the world. The system and its drivers have no regard for democracy, nations, culture, ethical values or sovereignty. Illicit flows are part of the quest for financial gain without regard to fundamental human values.

An automatic link is alleged between illicit flows and the proliferation of nuclear and conventional arms, terrorism, organized crime and other destabilizing factors. We challenge the attempt to merge various illicit flows with different and distinct illegal activities. We stress the need for separate issues to be dealt with in different and specific ways, within the framework of national policies and laws.

It is essential to recall that it is the purview of sovereign States to determine and implement border security measures. In that regard, we reiterate the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in matters that fall within the exclusive domestic domain of States, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 15 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stipulates that

> "The State is responsible for establishing an overall policy on land, island and maritime borders, to preserve territorial integrity, sovereignty, security, defence, national identity, diversity and the environment, in keeping with cultural, economic and social development and national integration."

In Venezuela we have a constitutional and legislative framework, legitimated by the sovereign will of the people as expressed in referendums, which allows no means of decision-making other than approval or rejection by the people themselves through constitutional mechanisms. They cannot be circumvented by any multilateral initiative or by the Security Council.

My country has always taken a strong position against the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons. Thousands such weapons have been confiscated in Venezuela, as never before in our nation's history. Venezuela acknowledges the problem posed by the manufacture and illicit trade in such weapons in all its aspects in many regions of the world. We agree with the need to establish controls, in particular by producer countries, so that the supply of such weapons is limited to Governments and their authorized bodies, in accordance with international law, in particular the right to self-defence, enshrined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. In that regard, we underscore the importance of effectively implementing the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

My country is concerned about the transfer of weapons to non-State actors without the authorization of Governments. The illicit transfer to subversive elements and illegal armed groups, which threatens the legitimate peace and stability of Governments, has already led to the proliferation of illegal weapons in various regions and is destabilizing neighbouring countries.

Today's neocolonialist and imperialist wars and policies seeking to plunder the natural resources of developing countries are causing people more poverty, inequality and suffering. That is producing diasporas that are particularly vulnerable, and therefore susceptible to becoming involved in illicit cross-border flows. Meanwhile, the security agencies of imperialist Powers often defend, protect and finance major national or international drug barons and terrorist and criminal networks in order to promote their subversive agendas against sovereign nations.

If we truly want to reduce or combat the tragic consequences of cross-border illicit flows, it would suffice to put an end to the voracious appetite of neoliberalism, its transnational companies and the imperialist and colonialist policies that give rise to poverty, and to stop economic, political and social inequalities in the world.

In conclusion, we would like to state that it is auspicious that the vast majority of countries participating in today's debate have reaffirmed that, under the principles of equality, political independence and territorial integrity, only sovereign States are competent to draft and implement measures on the security of their borders.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the United States delegation for convening this open debate.

Today's debate is certainly of special importance to all States throughout the world, in particular those of North Africa and the Sahara and Sahel regions, since border security is a major challenge for all of them. Trafficking in all kinds of goods across the borders of those countries is rooted far back in history. Many people in those countries live off illegal trading carried out by organized groups. However, it must be said that trafficking has now become an alarming phenomenon that genuinely threatens the security of those States, Libya first and foremost among them. The activities of illegal organized groups are no longer limited to trafficking in drugs or persons; they are deployed as a major weapon in the competition among traffickers.

A ministerial meeting of the States concerned held in my country last March produced the Tripoli plan of action on cooperation among the countries of the region, which was subsequently submitted to the Secretariat for publication as an official document of the Security Council and the General Assembly. We regret the fact that, to date, the plan has not still been issued.

What we have seen take place in Mali in recent days is truly alarming. The declaration of the Azawad State in the north not only means the ethnic division of that African country, but also constitutes a real threat to the security of all States in North Africa and the Sahel and Sahara regions. We are all aware that extremist and terrorist armed groups have coalesced in the areas controlled by those separatists, who were trained and provided with weapons and funds by the Al-Qadhafi regime. Al-Qadhafi recruited thousands of mercenaries from the four corners of the world in order to help him to suppress the Libyan people, who had risen up against his regime. He spent money on them, armed them to the teeth and even went as far as granting them Libyan citizenship.

After the collapse of his regime, those same mercenaries fled and took weapons and money with them to neighbouring African States. They are currently working with the last remaining supporters of the Libyan regime, in particular with Al-Qadhafi's son Saadi, who is living in Niger, so as to generate anarchy, murder and instability in Libya and neighbouring countries. In fact, they are cooperating with Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, as well as with extremist groups in desert areas. They have also made public their plans to destabilize the region. The interview given to the Al-Arabiya network by Al-Qadhafi's son on 10 February is clear proof of that. A journalist who recently visited Niger met with Saadi Al-Qadhafi and some of his close military supporters also indicated the same thing, stating that Al-Qadhafi had stated that he was planning to establish an Islamic State in the region.

Securing borders in that very sensitive region is a basic national responsibility. It also requires that States

of the region and the international community make efforts to prevent terrorism, trafficking and illegal migration. It is our hope that the competent bodies of the United Nations will accord due importance to these problems. It is also our hope that the United Nations will support the Tripoli plan of action, which was adopted by the countries of the region, by providing assistance in the consolidation of institutions and capacity-building in the countries concerned, because security in that region, the Sahel and Sahara and North African countries, is a fundamental pillar of international security.

Libya, whose people defeated Al-Qadhafi and his regime, cannot on their own protect their lengthy borders against illicit cross-border movements, particularly clandestine migration and illicit trafficking in weapons and drugs. To that end, we are striving to promote closer cooperation with our neighbours and are mobilizing all our potential to address that threat.

We therefore call on all States and international organizations to cooperate with the Libyan authorities in pursuing Al-Qadhafi's sons and his die-hard supporters and mercenaries, because they are the main factors of instability in the region. They must be arrested and brought to justice. We hope that all States that are hosting on their territory senior officials of the Al-Qadhafi regime realize that they are hosting time bombs that could blow up at any time on their own territory, with very negative consequences for their stability followed by serious repercussions on their neighbouring countries.

Border control and the prevention of illegal cross-border trafficking is the joint responsibility of neighbouring States. It requires the promotion of cooperation and coordination as well as the exchange of information and experience so as to ensure common security.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. António.

Mr. António: At the outset, allow me, Sir, to congratulate you on your country's accession to the presidency of the Security Council and to thank you for having invited the African Union (AU) to be a part of this important discussion on the critical issue of securing borders against illicit flows.

The developments taking place on various continents today, particularly on the African continent, bring into focus the ever-present danger of uncontrolled borders and the attendant challenges of illicit activities that include the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, terrorist networks and human and drug trafficking, as well as piracy, especially off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Guinea.

The question of border security has been high on the agenda of African leaders, who are determined to ensure that borders play a constructive rather than a destructive role in promoting unity, peace, security and stability on the continent. Accordingly, the African Union adopted a border programme that is undergirded by a number of political and legal instruments, aimed at guiding further action in the management of border issues in Africa. The programme also focuses on the centrality of the principle of the respect of borders existing on achievement of national independence, as enshrined in the Charter of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU); the resolution adopted by the first ordinary session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Cairo in July 1964; and article 4 (b) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

The goal of the AU border programme is to comprehensively address border issues with respect to both delimitation and demarcation, as well as cross-border cooperation, with the overall objective of contributing to the prevention of conflicts and the promotion of integration.

The crises we are currently witnessing in Mali and in other parts of the Sahel region of Africa, in Guinea-Bissau and between the Sudan and South Sudan; piracy off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Guinea; and the increased scale of activities by terrorist and criminal groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army are manifest threats to peace, stability and sustainable development. Indeed, this was clearly recognized and addressed by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its meeting held yesterday at the ministerial level in Addis Ababa. The Ministers considered the report of the AU Chairperson, which, inter alia, highlighted the fact that Guinea-Bissau had become a hub for drug trafficking, posing a serious threat to regional security and stability.

In the case of Mali, the report, while pointing out that the situation is a serious violation of one of the fundamental principles of the African Union, notably respect for the borders existing at the time of

independence and the unity and territorial integrity of Member States, also noted the increase in the number of attacks by armed groups including Harakat Ansar ed-Din al-Salafiya (Ansar Eddine), Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO). Most notable is MUJAO, a dissident branch of AQIM that brings together elements of different terrorist and criminal groups from the region, including Boko Haram. According to the Chairperson's report, the prevailing situation in Mali has provided AQIM with greater latitude to pursue its terrorist activities, including the kidnapping of hostages for purposes of collecting a ransom.

Regarding the situation between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, the African Union, through its High-level Implementation Panel, has continued to facilitate negotiations between the two parties on post-referendum and post-secession arrangements. Unfortunately, and as noted by the AU Chairperson in his report, the relations between the Sudan and South Sudan have deteriorated sharply in recent weeks, with intense fighting between the armies of the two countries, mostly in and around Heglig. The AU Chairperson further noted that the current situation, which also calls into question respect for the AU principle on pre-existing borders, had poisoned relations between the two countries, generating a humanitarian crisis, undermining the viability of both States, further jeopardizing the security of the entire region and further testing the universally accepted objective of two viable States living side by side in peace.

The illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons continues to pose serious threats and challenges on the continent and calls for a strengthening of the capacity of African countries to implement subregional and continental legally binding instruments such as the Bamako Declaration on small arms and light weapons, among others.

Mr. President, these ongoing situations on the continent are the best illustration of the relevance of your country's initiative to inscribe this critical issue on the agenda of the Security Council this month — an issue that, we believe, can be tackled only through concerted regional and international efforts, including by building on existing regional and international mechanisms and instruments.

The African Union stands ready to cooperate for the realization of this objective.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Belarus.

Mr. Savinykh (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): The Republic of Belarus has always ensured a high level of protection for State borders. Belarus is a reliable barrier to illegal migration, the movement of terrorists and the transit of weapons, drugs and their precursors. Given its geographical location, Belarus has significantly expanded the resources and efforts that it devotes to protecting State borders. The effectiveness of those measures can be felt fully by other countries in the region.

An example of that work was the recent disruption of a network of trafficking in women, undertaken jointly with INTERPOL and British law enforcement agencies. A broad series of measures was also implemented, alongside Ukraine, to ensure security around the European Football Championship. Belarus is also cooperating productively with the Collective Security Treaty Organization to protect common borders. In this context, Belarus could be called a regional exporter of security.

In order to safeguard security along its entire border, the Republic of Belarus is taking steps to ensure that separate parts of the border no longer receive unequal treatment in terms of protection. To this end, we are redeploying resources to staff and equip the southern border control. That is extremely important because Belarus lies on the main transport routes not only between the East and the West but also between the North and the South.

I would like to support and respond to the interesting and important idea expressed by the delegations of the United States of America and Norway. I call attention to the work of the Committee on Trade of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The Committee's work on trade standards and information and communications technology infrastructure development has allowed us to promote transparency in all international trade exchanges and decrease the related financial and temporal costs. We see a genuine possibility of concluding this work in the near future in the Eurasian Economic Commission, which has begun its work this year as the executive body of a common economic space for Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

The Economic Commission for Europe plans, through the Committee on Trade, to discuss the future possibility of establishing a universal, pan-European system for supporting and monitoring trade operations. Such a system would enhance the transparency and security of all trade flows, removing excessive bureaucratic obstacles to business.

Belarus intends to continue to act as an effective guarantor of the security of borders in the interests of the entire region. We note that the expenses involved in this area continue to rise. In this connection, and also given the need to ensure capacity-building for border protection in light of rising threats, we appeal to our partners to offer practical cooperation and support for protecting our borders.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Botswana.

Mr. Nkoloi (Botswana): My delegation shares concerns about the significant work that still needs to be done in the area of preventing illicit flows across borders. Addressing this problem is of particular relevance to Botswana, as it is to the African continent as a whole. We therefore thank the United States delegation for convening this open debate during its presidency of the Security Council.

Botswana believes that the concerted efforts of the international community are required to address the problem of illicit cross-border flows, including of small arms and light weapons, weapons of mass destruction, human trafficking, particularly trafficking in women and children, drugs, illicit minerals and wildlife trophies, terrorists, fugitives and illicit financial transfers. My delegation views such activities as serious threats that undermine efforts aimed at achieving sustainable economic and social development.

Transnational organized crime and terrorism are global in nature, and we believe that any meaningful effort to counter such activities should involve giving special attention to improving border control, immigration and customs security. Botswana supports stronger and more robust cooperation to prevent and combat illicit flows at the national, regional and global levels. We also support a comprehensive approach which we believe would save both time and costs in the global effort to stem illicit flows.

My delegation strongly believes that the international community should join efforts in prioritizing border control in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We look forward to consideration of this subject during the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action, which will be held in August 2012.

Botswana also places a high premium on the conclusion of an arms trade treaty in July 2012 as an effective and balanced, legally-binding instrument of the highest possible common, international standards for the transfer of conventional arms. We will support an arms trade treaty, the implementation of which shall include closer international cooperation and assistance in the prevention of illicit flows across borders.

Botswana appreciates the assistance it has received from the United Nations system, as well as from bilateral partners, towards the strengthening of its border control, immigration and customs security. We therefore look forward to the report of the Secretary-General later this year, which will provide a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations efforts to assist Member States to counter illicit flows.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Adi (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, my delegation adds its voice to the opinions expressed in the letter sent yesterday by the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement to the President of the Security Council.

The Security Council is debating this issue at a time when Syria is under terrorist attack, enabled by the trafficking of arms and fighters who seek to destabilize and damage security, destroy public and private property, and undertake terrorist and sabotage operations against civilians and the military alike. My country has sent dozens of letters to the Security-General and the Council, in which it has underlined the threat posed by the trafficking of arms and combatants across borders with neighbouring countries to the stability and security of Syria.

Yesterday, we sent a letter to the Council containing the names of a number of detainees of Arab

nationalities, most of whom carried out terrorist acts in Syria, while others trafficked weapons into Syria. They all entered Syria illegally through borders with neighbouring States. Investigations have shown that most of those detained belong to Al-Qaida and have been given fatwas calling for extremist acts and practices. The Security Council should send a clear message to those who stand behind such acts, States and groups alike, to cease and desist.

My delegation today heard the statement by the representative of Israel. In this context, I would like to state that such accusations and lies cannot replace the evident truth. That is clear to all, as Israel is the main source of instability in the region because of its continuing occupation of Arab land and the Syrian Golan.

It is indeed shameful for the representative of Israel to accuse others instead of apologizing to the international community for an abhorrent history of aggression, including the Israeli army's use of millions of cluster bombs against Southern Lebanon on the very same day that the Council adopted resolution 1701 (2006) demanding an end to Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

It is well-known that the main traffickers of conventional weapons in the world, particularly illicit weapons, are retired Israeli military officers working for Israeli weapons manufacturers and industries. It is clear that the Israel representative's statement contradicts his country's actions, since Israel's involvement in the illicit trafficking of weapons across the globe encourages international terrorism and protects drug traffickers and secessionist movements around the world. Indeed, international gangs led by some Israeli religious figures are now trafficking children's organs.

Finally, acts of international aggression, occupation and piracy by Israeli cannot be hidden from the international community.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6761

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6761st meeting

Thursday, 26 April 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Rice	(United States of America)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Ratlou
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 11 April 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/196)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-31932 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 11 April 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/196)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item of its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2012/259, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/196, which contains the text of a letter dated 11 April 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004), concerning Côte d'Ivoire, addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2045 (2012).

I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): My delegation would like to express its congratulations to the Côte d'Ivoire Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004), as well as its Group of Experts, for the outstanding work that has been done in the six months since the publication of the report to the Council contained in document S/2011/642.

In response to the concerns expressed in that report, my delegation would like to solemnly reiterate the tireless commitment of the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara, and of the Government led by the Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Jeannot Kouadio-Ahoussou, to ensure the full cooperation and assistance of Ivorian authorities, both when it comes to access to the places and sources of information and in identifying potential violations of the Côte d'Ivoire sanctions regime.

Allow me to provide an update on a few key developments that have occurred since the adoption of resolution 1980 (2011) — the previous resolution on the Côte d'Ivoire sanctions regime. A year after the adoption of resolution 1980 (2011), President Ouattara and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire took steps to strengthen security throughout the country, restore security and the rule of law institutions and deploy them gradually throughout the country and transfer law enforcement functions to competent entities.

The security situation in Abidjan and throughout the country has significantly improved, but major challenges remain to be overcome, namely, recurring intercommunity and land conflicts as well as the precarious security situation in the western part of the country, in particular in the border zone with Liberia.

All State officials have returned to their posts in the north of the country, including the security and defence forces, the prefect corps, the financial police and public treasury, and customs and tax officers, thereby making it possible to restore public authority throughout the national territory.

Major financial efforts have been made by the State to restore the national road infrastructure and build new roads, bridges and highways.

The reform of the coffee and cocoa sector has been carried out, as has that of the mining and the energy sectors, thereby guaranteeing greater transparency in managing the financial resources generated by those important sectors for the economy of Côte d'Ivoire.

National reconciliation is now under way, and political dialogue with the opposition has begun. That

was reflected in the President's visit to the western part of the country from 21 to 24 April 2012, his first State visit within the country since his inauguration in May 2011. Along with the step taken by the President to promote dialogue, forgiveness and reconciliation, between 27 and 28 April, the Government will begin a dialogue with all the opposition parties in order to strengthen national cohesion.

The new National Assembly that emerged from the legislative elections of December 2011 convened yesterday for its first regular session, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire.

President Ouattara is fully aware of the priority of stabilizing the security situation. In order to signal his commitment and speed up crucial reforms in the security sector, the President has now assumed the functions of Minister of Defence in the new Government established following the ministerial reshuffling on 13 March. On 6 April, the President and Minister of Defence issued decree No. 2, which deals with the establishment, nature, composition and operation of the working group on security sector reform (SSR)

The group's first goal is to undertake an in-depth discussion on defence and security involving every sector involved in SSR. Secondly, the group is to strengthen coordination among all elements involved in SSR in order to develop a comprehensive and coherent security sector reform policy and find a lasting solution to the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). The working group is to submit its conclusions in three months.

The inter-ministerial coordination cell for monitoring the embargo has been set up. This body serves to underscore the key role played by the Foreign Ministry and guarantees strict respect of, and transparency in, the procedures to be followed.

With respect to the Kimberley Process, the restoration of local and regional administration by the Ministry of Mines and Energy makes it possible to have a presence that represents the public authority and has sufficient means to monitor money activities throughout the country. That should facilitate the availability of information necessary to establish legislation and speed up the process of Côte d'Ivoire becoming a member of the Process.

That is the context in which the Council adopted resolution 2045 (2012), which renews for a one-year period the sanctions regime concerning Côte d'Ivoire. My delegation notes that the new resolution renews the mandate of the Group of Experts for 12 months, until 30 April 2013.

The resolution acknowledges the urgent need for the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to train and equip its security forces and, in particular, to provide national and local police with the weapons and munitions necessary for law enforcement. The resolution eliminates the embargo on training and technical assistance. It also eases exemption procedures for Côte d'Ivoire authorities, from a system of requesting authorization to one of notifying.

The resolution also calls for a review of the sanctions in six months, according to the progress made in SSR and DDR. It also maintains the current measures on rough diamonds, while waiting for progress to be made in the Kimberley Process. Lastly, the resolution maintains individual sanctions.

My delegation would like to express its satisfaction and thanks to the members of the Council for having taken into account the efforts made and the success achieved by my country on the road to normalization and stability for Côte d'Ivoire. My delegation believes that the resolution sends a very strong message of encouragement from the Security Council to Côte d'Ivoire to continue its efforts in order to overcome the remaining challenges. President Ouattara will have an opportunity to express his gratitude to the members of the Council during the Council's next visit to Côte d'Ivoire, from 20 to 22 May.

As I said in my statement before the Council on 26 January (see S/PV.6708), Côte d'Ivoire is ready to assume once again its role as a locus of stability and growth in the subregion in the service of peace, security and international cooperation. President Ouattara, as Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), is aware of the importance of the responsibilities conferred upon him, and he intends to give Côte d'Ivoire the opportunity to fully assume its commitment.

As we speak, the heads of State of ECOWAS are meeting in Abidjan at a special summit meeting to consider the situations in Mali and Guinea-Bissau. Important measures are expected to emerge from that meeting that will contribute to finally resolving the

crises in those two countries, in close cooperation with the African Union, the United Nations, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the entire international community.

Security and stability of the countries in the West African subregion are threatened by terrorism, transnational crime, arms trafficking, the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and drug trafficking. My delegation therefore calls on the United Nations and the entire international community to increase their assistance to collective security projects undertaken by the subregional organizations of ECOWAS and the Economic Community of Central African States in order to put an end to those scourges and to be able to use the resources available to achieve economic and social development objectives for its populations.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10:20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6762

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6762nd meeting

Thursday, 26 April 2012, 10.20 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Rice	(United States of America)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Araud
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2012/231)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-31944 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2012/231)

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/231, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous: I thank you, Madam President, for the opportunity to brief the Council on the situation in Darfur and the implementation of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

I would like to start with the peace process. The Darfur Regional Authority is preparing strategies and workplans to progress in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. While UNAMID and the United Nations country team are looking at how they can support this process, concerns have been raised by the Darfur Regional Authority about the lack of funding from the Government. In his address to Parliament on 23 April, the Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority, El Tigani Seisi, stated that unless funding was provided the process could collapse.

Regarding the security provisions of the Doha Document, the parties must resolve a number of issues to move beyond the initial verification of the forces of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM). The LJM and the Sudanese Armed Forces were to move in parallel through a process of verification, disengagement, redeployment, limited arms control and finally, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Moreover, in accordance with the agreement, the LJM has requested the Government to provide non-military logistical support to its verified forces.

Now the Government and the LJM must decide how to proceed. Will the Government be ready to move through the process in parallel with the LJM, or will the LJM accept an amendment to the synchronization of the process? In that connection, it is important that a time frame be established for the provision of non-military logistical support. We have, of course, encouraged UNAMID to work with the parties towards the resolution of those issues.

On a positive note, as agreed with the LJM, UNAMID and its partners are undertaking further screening of LJM elements to dissociate children assembled with the Movement's forces.

Prospects for the resumption of negotiations between the Government and non-signatory movements do not look good at present. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi — which are both members, as the Council is aware, of the Sudan Revolutionary Front alliance — have informed the Joint Chief Mediator ad interim that they will negotiate only over national, political and economic reforms. The Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid has stated that it is not willing to negotiate until the root causes of the Darfur conflict have been addressed. For its part, the Government is willing to negotiate only on the basis of the Doha Document on issues related to Darfur.

Regarding internal dialogue on the peace process, the parties are due to complete in June the Doha Document information campaign and the canvassing of Darfuri stakeholders' views on the conditions they consider important to a credible dialogue. A preliminary analysis has indicated that the stakeholders are in favour of such a dialogue, but have concerns related to equitable representation, freedom of expression, the security of the participants and the commitment of the signatory parties to respecting the outcome. UNAMID will continue to work with the Government, the LJM and the Darfuri stakeholders to address those issues and will work towards strengthening its monitoring capacity.

Turning now to the implementation of the protection mandate of UNAMID and, further, to the incidents outlined in the report, on 17 April unidentified armed movement forces attacked a place

called El Simah near the border of Eastern Darfur and South Kordofan; Um Dafok, on the border of Eastern Darfur and the Central African Republic; and Saysaban in Southern Darfur. While the fighting has since subsided, the potential for additional clashes remains. UNAMID has assessed that the incidents are related to hostilities between South Sudan and the Sudan and, of course, remains vigilant within its capacity in monitoring the security situation along the border between Southern Darfur and South Sudan.

Attempts by UNAMID and humanitarian agencies to access those areas and other areas affected by fighting, including Jebel Marra, have been repeatedly obstructed by Government authorities. At the most recent tripartite meeting held in Addis Ababa in February, Government officials committed themselves to ensuring that UNAMID and humanitarian agencies had unhindered access throughout Darfur. In reality, however, UNAMID has continued to face access restrictions, particularly in militarily sensitive areas.

In other security incidents, the targeting by armed groups of South Sudanese in camps in Eastern Darfur is of concern. On 9, 17 and 18 April, groups of armed assailants attacked Dinka refugees in three camps near El Daein, in Eastern Darfur. In response, UNAMID has increased patrolling in the area and additional Government police have been deployed to deter such attacks. This brings me to the subject of the safety and security of the Mission and humanitarian personnel.

The three fatal attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers that have occurred since the beginning of the year are of serious concern. That includes an attack on a UNAMID convoy in Western Darfur on 20 April that resulted in the death of a Togolese police officer. I again express my condolences to the Ambassador of Togo over that loss. We are also deeply concerned about the World Food Programme staff member who was kidnapped in Nyala on 6 March. Of course, I call on the Government to spare no effort to secure his safe release. Furthermore, I would strongly urge the Government of the Sudan to release the two staff members of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan who have been detained in Eastern Darfur since 24 February.

I will now turn to operational issues and the review of uniformed personnel. In regard to the police component, one of the key findings of the review is an increased risk to civilians from violent crimes, particularly in urban areas and camps for internally displaced persons (IDP), as opposed to armed conflict. Further, the review found that formed police unit operations in outlying areas overlap with military patrols. It therefore recommends that formed police unit deployment be reconfigured from outlying to urban areas and sensitive IDP camps, thereby increasing their capacity for 24/7 patrolling and providing the security necessary for individual police officers to facilitate their community policing work. In so doing, the overall requirement for formed police units can be lowered from 19 to 17.

The community policing concept was reviewed in the light of the trend in some areas towards returns, criminality in urban areas and IDP camps, and the potential benefits of co-locating police with military for security reasons. The review noted that, of the 69 planned community policing centres, 49 are operational, of which 36 are in temporary facilities or co-located with team sites. The concept of community policing will be maintained, but the community policing centres have not been as effective as was hoped in facilitating outreach to local populations. That is due to challenges related to acquiring land for construction and the requirement for a military or formed police unit presence to secure individual police officers.

UNAMID will maintain the 13 community policing centres already fully constructed, but dispense with plans to utilize 20 centres not yet constructed. The others will be moved to team site locations, which in many cases are close to IDP camps and local communities. Co-location will alleviate the requirement for UNAMID troops to provide static security at community policing centres and team sites, thus enabling resources to be redirected towards more proactive protection activities. It will also improve coordination among military, police and civilian personnel at the team site level, affording greater flexibility in assisting IDPs and local communities as the situation requires.

The impact will be a police component that is more flexible, more mobile and better able to patrol where assistance is most needed. The result of these measures would be a recommended decrease of 663 individual police officers.

The review also found that a further reduction of 107 police officers who fulfil functions at mission or sector headquarters similar to those already undertaken by civilian personnel, including in the areas of gender, human rights and child protection, could be made without any significant impact on operations.

Turning to the military component, the total adjustment to the number of currently deployed military personnel would be 3,260, including 1,600 infantry. The proposed reduction in infantry is due mainly to improvements in security along the Chad-Darfur border and in far northern Darfur following rapprochements between the Sudan and Chad, and between the Sudan and Libya. The changed security situation also makes it prudent to redeploy 29 out of a total of 64 infantry companies from areas where the security threat has diminished to potential flashpoints and areas of higher threat. This relates principally to transferring forces to a relatively populous band that runs from east to west through the centre of Darfur, from the border with Chad to the border with Kordofan.

As deployment is largely complete, the number of engineering personnel would be reduced by 450 from the current deployment figure of 981, and the remaining personnel and assets reconfigured into a multirole engineering capability that would enhance the mobility of the force. Moreover, the currently deployed number of transport and logistics personnel will be adjusted downward by 525 in the light of plans to outsource those functions to commercial providers.

With regard to aviation units, a reduction of 200 personnel is recommended in connection with the proposed redeployment of tactical helicopters. This is in the light of a decline in the requirement for aerial fire support due to the reduction in hostilities between Government and movement forces. Military aviation support would therefore consist of eight military medium-utility helicopters to facilitate the changed needs of the force, conduct aerial surveillance and enhance the mobility of the reserve units.

In addition, a reduction of 240 reconnaissance unit personnel is recommended, as the need for them has diminished now that units are familiar with the area of operations. Current deployment figures would also be reduced by 245 signal elements, as units have deployed with that capacity embedded. The number of military police would also be reduced commensurately with the overall reduction in the force.

Additional recommendations for the military component include elevating the status of the three sector reserve units to force reserve units to place them at the direct disposal of the Force Commander, thereby increasing their mobility and the speed at which they can respond to incidents. Other measures include improved military planning and procedures, coordination and operational control, such as joint military, police and civil planning at the team site level, to improve incident responses and conflict mitigation.

The implementation of the adjustments would be completed over a period of 18 months, in accordance with pre-existing rotation schedules. The estimated cost savings in the 2012/2013 financial year would be $76.1 million against the mission's budget of $1.5 billion and approximately $135 million per annum in subsequent years.

In the months ahead, we will continue to streamline and strengthen the effectiveness of UNAMID uniformed personnel. On the political front, progress has been affected by the internal problems in the Sudan as a whole and, needless to say, the hostilities between the Sudan and South Sudan. Nevertheless, I call on the signatory parties to live up to their commitment to implement the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur for the sake of the long-suffering people of Darfur.

The President: I thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6763

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6763rd meeting

Friday, 27 April 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayez
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson

Agenda

Election of a member of the International Court of Justice (S/2012/211, S/2012/212 and S/2012/213)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-32199 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Election of a member of the International Court of Justice (S/2012/211, S/2012/212 and S/2012/213)

The President: The Security Council will now proceed to the election of a member of the International Court of Justice, in accordance with Article 14 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, to fill the seat that became vacant on 31 December 2011 with the resignation of Judge Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan).

Judge Al-Khasawneh's term of office would have expired on 5 February 2018. Article 15 of the Statute of the Court provides that a member of the Court elected to replace a member whose term of office has not expired shall hold office for the remainder of the predecessor's term. The member elected to replace Judge Al-Khasawneh will thus serve until 5 February 2018.

The list of candidates indicating the national groups by which each candidate was nominated is contained in document S/2012/212.

I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received a letter addressed to me by the Legal Counsel, dated 25 April 2012, informing me, on behalf of the Secretary-General, that after the established deadline for the filing of nominations, namely, 2 April 2012, national groups submitted nominations to the Secretariat. I should like to draw the Council's attention to the fact that all such additional nominations relate to a candidate already nominated by other national groups and whose name therefore already appears in document S/2012/212.

The Legal Counsel recommended that, in accordance with established practice, I inform Council members orally on the day of the election about the decisions of the aforementioned national groups. I am also informed that the Legal Counsel made a similar recommendation to the President of the General Assembly.

The nominations of the aforementioned national groups are as follows: for Mr. Dalveer Bhandari, Chile and Slovenia.

I should like to inform Council members that, in a note by the Secretary-General dated 20 April 2012 (S/2012/212/Add.1), the Secretary-General wrote that by a note verbale dated 18 April 2012 the Permanent Mission of Lebanon informed the Secretary-General that its national group had decided to withdraw its nomination of Mr. Ghaleb Ghanem for election to the International Court of Justice. Since Mr. Ghanem was nominated only by the national group of Lebanon, his name is not included on the ballot papers.

The Security Council has before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, contained in document S/2012/211, describing the present composition of the Court and setting out the procedure to be followed in the conduct of the election.

I should like to remind the Council that, under Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice,

> "Those candidates who obtain an absolute majority of votes both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council shall be considered as elected."

The required majority in the Security Council is eight votes.

The voting will be held by secret ballot. When we proceed to the vote, members of the Council will receive a ballot containing the names of all the candidates. No withdrawal will be accepted once the ballot papers have been distributed. However, it will be possible to withdraw between ballots.

Members of the Council will be requested to place an "X" in the box next to the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. Only those candidates whose names appear on the ballot are eligible for election. I should like to remind members of paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, which specifies that "[e]ach elector may vote for only one candidate" (S/2012/211, para. 14). Any ballot paper containing votes for more than one name will be considered invalid.

I should like to inform Council members that, in accordance with established practice, the ballot papers in the Security Council will not be counted until it has been verified that the ballot papers in the General Assembly have also been collected. The Council will remain in session pending the receipt of that information.

Only when one candidate has obtained the required majority of votes in the Security Council shall I communicate the result to the President of the General Assembly, and I shall request the Council to remain in session pending the receipt from the President of the General Assembly of the result of the voting in the Assembly.

The Council will now proceed to draw lots to select two delegations to serve as tellers. The delegation of India will not be considered to serve as a teller because a candidate of that nationality has been nominated. Because my delegation this month occupies the Council presidency, it will also be excluded from serving as a teller.

* * *

The President: The names of the delegations of France and South Africa have been drawn. I request each of them to appoint one of their members to serve as teller.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Lardon (France) and Mr. Crowley (South Africa) acted as tellers.

The President: May I take it that the Council is now ready to proceed with the election of a member of the International Court of Justice?

It is so decided.

I request the Conference Officer to distribute the ballot papers.

Members of the Council should place an "X" in the box next to the name of the one candidate for whom they wish to vote.

* * *

The President: I take it that all the members of the Council have now voted and I ask the Conference Officer to collect the ballot papers.

* * *

The President: All the ballot papers have been collected. I should like to remind Council members that, in accordance with the established practice, the ballots will not be counted until it has been verified that the ballot papers in the General Assembly have also been collected. The Council will remain in session pending the receipt of that information.

* * *

The President: I have now been informed that the ballot papers have been collected in the General Assembly.

The counting of the ballots in the Security Council will now begin. The tellers will now count the ballots and there will be two independent countings of the ballots, one by each teller. I should like to remind Council members that in accordance with established practice, I shall wait for the General Assembly to complete its count before I announce the results of the voting in the Security Council.

The Council will remain in session.

* * *

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	15
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	15
Number of abstentions:	0
Required majority:	8
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Dalveer Bhandari	13
Mr. Florentino Feliciano	2

A candidate obtained the required majority in the Security Council. Mr. Dalveer Bhandari has accordingly received the required majority of votes in the Security Council.

I shall communicate the result of the vote to the President of the General Assembly in writing.

I request the Council to remain in session while we wait for the President of the General Assembly to inform the Council of the result of the voting in the Assembly. In accordance with established procedure, the Presidents of the Security Council and of the General Assembly will simultaneously read out the results of the vote in the other body.

* * *

The President: I should like to inform the members of the Council that I have just received from the President of the General Assembly the following letter:

"I have the honour to inform you that, at the 107th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held today for the purpose of electing a member of the International Court of Justice, the following

candidate obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly: Mr. Dalveer Bhandari."

As both the Security Council and the General Assembly have agreed on the same candidate, the distinguished jurist Mr. Dalveer Bhandari has been elected a member of the International Court of Justice to hold office for the remainder of the term to which Judge Al-Khasawneh was elected, namely 5 February 2018.

I should like to congratulate him and wish him every success in the high office to which he has been elected.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank the tellers for their assistance in the conduct of the elections.

The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6764

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6764th meeting

Wednesday, 2 May 2012, 11.05 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mehdiyev	(Azerbaijan)
Members:	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

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12-32731 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Council for the month of May 2012, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Ambassador Susan Rice, Permanent Representative of the United States of America, for her service as President of the Security Council for the month of April 2012. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Rice and her delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of South Sudan and the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2012/279, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Germany, South Africa, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2046 (2012).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the vote.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council and for your kind words about our stewardship last month. We very much look forward to working with you.

The United States welcomes today's adoption of resolution 2046 (2012), which underscores the Security Council's strong and unanimous support for the road map for peace between the Sudan and South Sudan, as laid out by the African Union Peace and Security Council.

The current conflict between the Sudan and South Sudan is on the verge becoming a full-scale and sustained war. It poses a clear and present threat to international peace and security. Both countries are on the brink of returning to the horrors of the past and threaten to take the entire region with them. To avoid untold devastation and suffering, the fighting must stop, and stop now.

This conflict did not begin last week, last month, or even last year. The tensions underlying this conflict have long roots, most recently in the unresolved issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

For months, the Security Council, the African Union, my Government and many others in the international community have sent strong warnings to the parties that they must resolve these issues peacefully. To date, the parties have both failed to do so. In the history of this conflict, there has been a long litany of promises made and promises broken, so as this resolution indicates, we will judge the parties by their actions, not simply their words. With this vote, the Council has clearly imposed tight deadlines for concrete action, in line with the African Union decision.

This Council, especially those members with particular influence, including my own, must continue to press both parties to implement the African Union road map by ending hostilities, ceasing cross-border attacks and movements, halting aerial bombardments, withdrawing all their forces from the border areas, including Abyei, activating the necessary border security mechanisms, and ending support to rebel groups working against the other State. It is also essential that both parties return at once to the negotiating table under the auspices of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel to reach agreement on critical outstanding issues.

We support the plans of the African Union to travel to Khartoum and Juba in the coming days to begin the process. This is ultimately the only way that further conflict can be avoided. If the parties fail to take these steps promptly, the Council is united in its determination to hold both sides accountable. We stand ready to impose Chapter VII sanctions on either or both parties, as necessary.

Resolution 2046 (2012) also directs the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to return to the negotiating table to resolve the outstanding political and security issues that are substantially fuelling the current conflict, and it strongly urges the Government of the Sudan to accept the tripartite proposal and immediately allow urgently needed humanitarian access to all the affected areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. If they do not, untold thousands more will die needlessly.

The United States welcomes the stated commitment of South Sudan to honour the road map of the African Union and to abide by the decisions of the Security Council. We welcome its announced intention and determination to pull its police forces out of Abyei. The Government of the Sudan should clarify its statement of today to indicate its acceptance of the African Union road map and without conditions.

The reports of the Sudan's continued deadly bombing campaign against South Sudan, documented again first hand on the front page of today's *Washington Post*, are deeply alarming and profoundly disturbing, especially following South Sudan's recent steps towards peace. The Government of the Sudan must immediately halt cross-border attacks, particularly the aerial bombardments that have killed scores of civilians. Equally, South Sudan should refrain from any retaliation, especially any additional cross-border attacks. The occupation of Heglig was illegal and unacceptable and must not be repeated.

Finally, the United States calls upon both parties to implement fully and without delay all elements of the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqué, starting with an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. If either or both parties fail to do so, the Council stands ready to act and to impose consequences.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China has followed closely the situation in the Sudan and South Sudan, and has been deeply concerned over the recent deterioration of relations between the two countries. We hope that both countries will remain on the path of peace, put an immediate end to all hostilities and violence, fully respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and restore peace and stability along their borders as soon as possible. We hope that they shall fully implement the existing agreements in good faith, resolve the outstanding issues through dialogue and negotiations, and make joint efforts to forge good-neighbourly and friendly relations of equality, mutual trust and mutual benefit.

China has always maintained that the international community should take an objective, impartial and balanced position on the question of the Sudan and South Sudan, avoid taking sides or imposing unbalanced pressure on the parties, and refrain from interfering in the mediation efforts of the African Union and other organizations and countries of the region. We are always very cautious about the use or threat of sanctions.

In the meantime, China has always maintained that African issues should be resolved by Africans using African means. We commend and support the unremitting efforts of the African Union (AU) to promote the settlement of the issues between the Sudan and South Sudan, and welcome the road map adopted by the African Union in that regard. We hope that the Sudan and South Sudan will actively cooperate with the mediation efforts of the African Union and the international community, take practical steps to implement the AU road map, and seek an early and appropriate resolution of the relevant issues.

Taking the AU position and requests concerning the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan into account, China voted in favour of resolution 2046 (2012) a few moments ago. China will continue to play a positive and constructive role, alongside the international community, in promoting the proper resolution of issues between the Sudan and South Sudan.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): South Africa is gravely concerned about the escalating conflict between the Sudan and South Sudan. This escalation has seriously damaged relations between the two countries and brought them to the brink of war. It is clear that there can be no military option for resolving the outstanding issues and differences between the

Sudan and South Sudan. What is instead required is the political will on the part of the parties to complete negotiations and commit to the realization of two viable States living in peace and each respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the other.

Pursuant to the achievement of that objective, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council recently met at the ministerial level and adopted a communiqué on 24 April that provides a clear road map calling on the parties to cease hostilities, commit to unconditionally resuming negotiations, and reach agreement on outstanding post-secession issues. In this regard, the AU Peace and Security Council called on the international community in general, and the Security Council in particular, to support and endorse this road map under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. That call was made to ensure that the parties would commit to the processes and agreements that they have already agreed and resolve outstanding issues, and that these measures can be applied only in support of a negotiated political solution to the conflict in the Sudan and South Sudan.

We are pleased that the Security Council has today been able to unanimously adopt resolution 2046 (2012), which we hope will add momentum to the AU's effort to assist the parties in extricating themselves from the logic of war and embark on a process of constructive negotiations within the time frames that have been set. We call on both parties to accept the AU road map and the resolution unconditionally, and to resume negotiations under the leadership of the AU without delay.

The onus now rests with the political leadership of the Sudan and South Sudan to resolve all outstanding issues, which should lead to the complete normalization of relations between the two countries and ensure that all the peoples of the Sudan and South Sudan can enjoy peace, dignity, democracy and development. We therefore urge them to seize the opportunity and fully comply with their obligations under the AU road map, so that they can give effect to their commitment never to return to war and resolve exclusively by peaceful means any differences that may arise.

Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri (India): Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, and the delegation of Azerbaijan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of the United States and her delegation for their able stewardship of the Council during April.

Recent developments between the Sudan and South Sudan, including cross-border military operations and damage to economic infrastructure, particularly oil facilities, have caused us serious concern. These developments have the potential to threaten peace and stability and lead the two countries towards war. This will be a serious setback to the socio-economic and political issues — the effects of decades-long civil war — that the country has to overcome. There is therefore an urgent need to avoid war and to peacefully resolve the outstanding issues related to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) through political dialogue and negotiations.

The African Union's High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), led by President Thabo Mbeki, has been facilitating dialogue between the Sudan and South Sudan for a few years now. In its briefings to the Security Council the Panel has outlined realistic frameworks that it has developed for resolving various outstanding CPA issues. Serious negotiations based on those frameworks can help the two countries not only to resolve those issues but also to build an enduring relationship based on mutual cooperation and respect for their independence, unity and territorial integrity.

India has consistently supported the AUHIP in its efforts to facilitate negotiations between the Sudan and South Sudan and a resolution of all the outstanding issues, so that they can develop into two viable and politically stable States, at peace with each other. Our vote in favour of resolution 2046 (2012) today is an expression of our support for the efforts of the AUHIP and in line with the request contained in the African Union communiqué of 24 April. We hope that the resolution's adoption will strengthen the efforts of the AUHIP to facilitate and negotiate a settlement of all outstanding issues. We urge the two countries to end all hostilities between their military forces, as well as those by the various armed groups operating in the region, and to resume negotiations without delay under AUHIP auspices.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Germany voted in favour of resolution 2046 (2012), which we also co-sponsored. With the resolution, adopted under Chapter VII of the

United Nations Charter and imposing binding obligations on the Sudan and South Sudan, the Council is sending a clear and unequivocal message. Recent months have brought the two countries to the brink of all-out war. We have had to witness the events in Abyei, the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, a dispute about borders and oil, aerial bombardments, the establishment of the Sudan Revolutionary Front and, most recently, events in and around Heglig.

The Council's primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security. With the adoption of resolution 2046 (2012), it is reacting in an appropriate and timely way to a clear threat to that international peace and security. Furthermore, the Council is lending its support to the communiqué and road map of the African Union, as the competent regional organization. Germany strongly supports the African Union's initiative and its leadership role in the Sudan and South Sudan.

Resolution 2046 (2012) provides an opportunity for those countries to return to peaceful, responsible and mutually beneficial relations. It now falls to the Governments in Khartoum and Juba to seize this opportunity for the sake of their peoples. The Security Council should and will closely monitor the situation and the parties' compliance with the obligations contained in the resolution.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation voted today to adopt resolution 2046 (2012) in view of the need to deal speedily with the dangerous state of relations between the Sudan and South Sudan. We proceeded from the opinion that the text aims to support the road map, adopted on 24 April by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, for regulating the crisis between the two States.

It is well known that Russia is firmly in favour of solving African problems by relying on the positions and assessments of the countries of the continent themselves and their regional organizations. Our concerns, however, were only partially reflected in the text of the resolution. We have been compelled to conclude that the disagreements between the Sudan and South Sudan came close to a major military conflict after the recent occupation by South Sudanese troops of the Heglig oil-producing region. According to the information available, the oil infrastructure of that region, which is vitally important to the economy of the Sudan, was either destroyed or rendered inoperable by that occupation. In that context, the language in the resolution welcoming the South Sudanese army's withdrawal from Heglig seems inappropriate. We believe that an assessment should be made of the damage done during the occupation and a fair level of compensation specified.

It is also intolerable that thousands of armed units from the so-called Sudanese Revolutionary Front are pursuing their destabilizing activities in the Sudanese states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile with the aim of violently overthrowing the Government in Khartoum. There is reason to believe that this new insurgent alliance has major external support. In this connection, we are convinced that any possible future measures to be taken by the Security Council under paragraph 6 of today's resolution cannot be applied to those aspects that touch on the issue of regulating the situation in the aforementioned Sudanese states.

Concerning possible future steps to be taken by the Council regarding the crisis in relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, we wish to emphasize that the arsenal of political and diplomatic tools for normalizing the situation is far from exhausted. We consider the sanctions route to be an extreme step for influencing both parties, and the effectiveness and specificity of any such sanctions should be carefully evaluated.

In light of this, Russia intends to carefully and objectively weigh the implications of Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations in evaluating the implementation by the Sudan and South Sudan of the road map settlement. We believe that the African Union and its High-Level Implementation Panel, led by the former President of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, should continue their active efforts to mediate and remain the chief mechanism for normalizing relations between the two countries. We urge the Sudan and South Sudan to renew the negotiation process and solve all the disputed issues by peaceful means.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Over the past few weeks, we have witnessed with great concern the gradual deterioration of relations between the Sudan and South Sudan as a result of a spiralling confrontation that has continued to grow and that reflects a lack of mutual trust and the inability of either party to resolve their differences through dialogue and negotiation. It is truly regrettable that the first steps of

the newborn Republic of South Sudan should be on the path of war and hostility rather than that of cooperation, reconciliation and joint efforts with its neighbour in seeking development and prosperity. Colombia is convinced that the use of peaceful means and strict compliance with international law are the only way to resolve the disputes between these States, alongside the significant role played by regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

My country voted in favour of resolution 2046 (2012) in order to signal our firm and complete support for the road map and the other measures adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in its 24 April communiqué, which established concrete steps to be taken by both countries in order to end hostilities, reduce tensions, return to a path of dialogue and negotiation, and focus on a definitive resolution of the outstanding issues. It is crucial that both parties return to the spirit of compromise and political will that made the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement possible and that would make both accountable to their citizens in terms of peace and compliance with the timeline for implementing the steps set out in the African Union's communiqué and resolution 2046 (2012).

With the adoption of that resolution, the Council has not only responded to the African Union's requests but also clearly signalled its firm determination to prevent a further deterioration of the situation. It is crucial that we have the cooperation of the authorities in both countries; we need genuine signs of commitment from them, reflected in concrete steps for tackling the problems of both sides, particularly in the area of security.

The Sudan and South Sudan must build a relationship on the basis of cooperation in which the viability, security and prosperity of both States are the fundamental principles of their peaceful coexistence. That will require both States to refrain from the use of force; to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the others; and to conduct their relations in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference in internal affairs and regional cooperation.

Both States must undertake to end any kind of direct or indirect support to armed groups on the territory of the other side, which is now happening. They must immediately end aerial bombardments in the border area, fully implement the agreements of 20, 29 and 30 July, and agree to cooperate with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on recommendations on the Sudan in order to advance substantive negotiations on the four areas set out in the resolution and the African Union communiqué with the support of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

Colombia believes that, with the adoption of resolution 2046 (2012), the Council has taken decisive action in support of the African Union forces in the face of an opportunity to restore peace. We trust that the authorities of the Sudan and South Sudan will respond with the responsibility warranted by the current circumstances.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the adoption of resolution 2046 (2012). In the past few weeks, the African Union has done its utmost not only to prevent an escalation of the current conflict between the Sudan and South Sudan, but also to enable the rapid resumption of negotiations between the two States, under the auspices of President Mbeki, on issues of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that are still pending.

In that context, the African Union Peace and Security Council, meeting at the ministerial level, adopted a plan of action for the Sudan and South Sudan to emerge from the crisis that establishes clear deadlines. The African Union then turned to the Council to endorse the plan.

All Security Council members unanimously agreed that the Security Council had to respond to that request. Thanks to today's vote, the action plan now has the authority of a Chapter VII resolution, as the African Union wanted. With the resolution, the Security Council underscores that it expects the Sudan and South Sudan to immediately end hostilities, to set up a demilitarized zone along their common border, and to withdraw their troops from the disputed region of Abyei. The Sudan and South Sudan must rapidly return to the negotiating table so that outstanding issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement can be settled within three months.

As all Council members wanted, the resolution thus provides a clear way out of the crisis. It is now up to the Sudanese parties to immediately implement the demands of the Security Council.

Mr. Menan (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would like first of all to congratulate you, Sir, and the delegation of Azerbaijan on your country's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the current month. I wish you great success in executing the Council's work. I would also like to reiterate my warm thanks to Ambassador Susan Rice and the United States delegation on their very remarkable work at the head of the Council for the past month, which was very busy.

Togo welcomes today's adoption of resolution 2046 (2012) on the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan, which stipulates urgent measures to restore lasting peace and security to both brotherly countries. Indeed, after several Council statements, following the escalating violence seen recently in the relations between the Sudan and South Sudan and the communiqué on the African Union Peace and Security Council decision ordering both countries to seek a peaceful solution to the issues dividing them, it was urgent that the Council adopt a firm position in the light of that situation, which threatens peace and security in the region.

My country believes that the various disputes between the Sudan and South Sudan can be viably resolved only through dialogue and negotiation. The Security Council has just indicated exactly that path to both countries by supporting the road map proposed by the African Union.

Togo welcomes the decision of South Sudan to withdraw its troops from Heglig, as it also committed to do with regard to Abyei. My country urges the Republic of the Sudan to do the same and to stop the aerial bombardments. Togo urges both countries to resume negotiations in a peaceful and calm climate under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel chaired by President Mbeki, with the support of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

My country remains convinced that such a path of negotiation remains the only way to achieve a lasting settlement of such vital issues as oil, the status of nationals of both countries, the status of the border areas and the demarcation and the final status of Abyei. That is why Togo once again calls on the Sudan and South Sudan to spare no effort in abstaining from confrontation and to undertake negotiations in good faith in order to resolve the issues dividing them, in accordance with the African Union road map.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and all members of the brotherly Mission of Azerbaijan on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We are fully ready to cooperate with you. I would also like to thank Ambassador Susan Rice and the United States Mission for their presidency last month, which was very successful and positive.

The Kingdom of Morocco voted in favour of resolution 2046 (2012), which urges the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to immediately cease all confrontation, to undertake to implement all previous agreements, and to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In that regard, the Kingdom of Morocco appreciates the decision of the Government of the Sudan to settle outstanding issues between the two countries. Deeply convinced of the need to abjure force in interactions between countries, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Kingdom of Morocco believes that at this stage it is absolutely crucial to give priority to dialogue and negotiations and to encourage both parties not to support rebel groups that undermine the territorial integrity of the other side. We would also call on international partners and mediators of both countries to resolve pending issues and to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. That would restore trust between the two neighbours and contribute to a shared future of coexistence, cooperation and solidarity.

Here, I reaffirm Morocco's long-standing position in favour of the principle of dialogue and negotiation. We also believe in sanctions only when they are absolutely necessary. Thus, in accordance with the resolutions of the League of Arab States and the Security Council, I cite the Arab League resolution adopted on 26 April, which firmly condemns the attack on Heglig, calls for respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan, also calls on the two parties to settle the problems between them through negotiation, and reiterates the League's readiness to help the African mediation efforts. Furthermore, in the resolution the Arab League proposes the establishment of a commission of inquiry to assess the damage caused by the attack on Heglig.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency. You can be sure of our full support during this month. I also offer many thanks and congratulations to Ambassador Rice and the United States delegation on their successful presidency in April.

In recent weeks, the Council has expressed its deep and growing alarm at the escalating conflict between the Sudan and South Sudan, including troop movements, seizure of territory, support to proxy forces and aerial bombardments — a situation that the Council has rightly characterized as a threat to international peace and security.

With the adoption of resolution 2046 (2012), the Council has demonstrated its determination that the conflict must end. It has given its full support to the African Union road map of 24 April. With the full weight of its authority under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, it has created binding obligations on both the Sudan and South Sudan to cease fire and follow the path laid down by the African Union towards the restoration of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between their two countries.

The adoption of resolution 2046 (2012) also means that both the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) have binding obligations to resolve the conflict in the Sudan's Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states, which has cost its people so highly in suffering and displacement.

As resolution 2046 (2012) makes very clear, the Sudan, South Sudan and the SPLM-N must meet in full their obligations set out in the resolution or face the consequences of non-compliance. The United Kingdom hopes that, with the adoption of resolution 2046 (2012), the Sudan and South Sudan will choose the peace, stability and prosperity that their people so desperately need and deserve.

The African Union High-level Implementation Panel, supported by the Security Council, has made clear that it stands ready to help them make that choice and to make it binding for generations to come. The United Kingdom expresses its deep gratitude to the Panel for its work and looks forward to a better future for all the people of the Sudan and South Sudan.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): Allow me to begin by reiterating our congratulations to you and your delegation, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month, as well as our appreciation to Ambassador Rice and the United States delegation for their work in leading the Council last month.

The deterioration of the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan in recent weeks and months has been a serious cause of concern. The situation assumed grave proportions with the occupation of Heglig. It was therefore urgent for the international community to play its role in preventing further escalation and to encourage both countries to revert to the path of dialogue and peace. It is right for the Council to act in support of the efforts led by the African Union (AU), and we are glad at the unanimous adoption of resolution 2046 (2012) today.

Pakistan voted in favour of the resolution as an expression of support for the efforts of the African Union towards resolving all outstanding and contentious issues between the Sudan and South Sudan, as well as to respond to the call for support from the African Union Peace and Security Council, in line with its communiqué of 24 April. We have always supported and will continue to support the efforts of the AU. Our principled support is based upon the recognition of the centrality of the role of the AU in resolving issues pertaining to Africa.

Our words are matched by our actions. Pakistan's deep and historical commitment to peace and security in Africa is evident from our continuing role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts on the continent and in peacekeeping missions. We believe that the Security Council should play a constructive role in addressing the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan, and stand united behind the AU towards achieving peace and stability in the region.

The overall objective remains the peaceful settlement of the situation. The Council should be cautious about the threat or use of sanctions. However, we regret that, despite the clear message of the AU Peace and Security Council, some Council members chose to take a course that runs the risk of creating fissures in the Council. We regret that several proposals that were clearly in line with the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council were not accommodated in the draft resolution, and that the communiqué was selectively read and applied.

The Council needs to be transparent and consistent, both in terms of its support for the actions of the AU with regard to situations on the African continent and in its response to calls for support in specific situations. The tendency to selectively respond to the AU based upon narrow political calculus and expediency will undermine not only the work of the AU but also the goal of peace and security on the continent.

We reiterate our support for the AU and the excellent work being done by the AU High-level Implementation Panel under the leadership of President Mbeki. We hope that today's resolution will advance the goals of peace and stability in both the Sudan and South Sudan. We call on both friendly countries to assume their responsibilities, fulfil their commitments and help us help them to find a peaceful resolution of all issues in the spirit of good-neighbourliness, mutual respect, non-interference and full respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Guatemala joins the consensus in favour of resolution 2046 (2012). For months now, we have noted with growing alarm the collision course taken by the Sudan and South Sudan, in violation of the spirit and the letter of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by both countries. We are convinced that both parties have their share of responsibility in the succession of irrational actions that have been taken to the detriment of the interests of both parties and that presage an increasing risk of the resumption of an armed conflict that we had thought to have ended in July 2011.

In voting in favour the resolution, we were not only responding to the appeal that has been made by the African Union, but also fulfilling the role assigned to us by the Charter of the United Nations, since no one can deny that international peace and security are in jeopardy. We trust that, with the adoption of today's resolution, peace between the Sudan and South Sudan will embrace the new opportunity to implement all elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

We welcome the fact that the Security Council has again joined the African Union and its road map for peace between the Sudan and South Sudan. That makes it possible for us to support the peoples and the Governments of the Sudan and of South Sudan in the process of achieving a firm and lasting peace within a framework of cooperation between both countries.

Mr. Cabral (Portugal): I, too, would like to congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency and to assure you of our full cooperation. I thank Ambassador Susan Rice and all of the American delegation for a most successful presidency.

Portugal is extremely concerned about the situation in the Sudan and South Sudan. We supported and voted in favour of resolution 2046 (2012), fully convinced that the Council has the essential responsibility to react to and to act under these circumstances and following the decisions taken by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 24 April. We urge both parties sitting at this table with us today to respond favourably and immediately to the demands of the Council and of the African Union and fulfil the requirements contained in resolution 2046 (2012), namely, the ceasing of all hostilities and the return to negotiations under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel.

We would also like to underline the importance we attach to paragraphs 4 and 7 of the resolution, on issues of humanitarian assistance and on the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan voted in favour of resolution 2046 (2012), with the understanding that it would contribute to a ceasing of all hostilities, easing the current tension between the Sudan and South Sudan, facilitating the resumption of negotiations between the two States on the outstanding issues from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and normalizing their relations. We take note of the Security Council's deep commitment to seeing the Sudan and South Sudan become two economically prosperous States living side by side in peace, security and stability.

Azerbaijan supports the efforts of the African Union and its High-level Implementation Panel. It is essential that the resolution just adopted is mostly based on the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 24 April 2012. It is important that the resolution reaffirms the strong commitment of the Security Council to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan and South Sudan, and that it recalls the importance of the principles of the peaceful settlement of international

disputes, good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation.

By condemning the repeated incidents of cross-border violence between the two States, in particular the seizure and military occupation of Heglig in the Sudan and the support of proxy forces and armed groups, the Security Council reaffirmed, inter alia, the well-established principle of the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory and made it clear that such actions are illegal, unacceptable and cannot be justified under any circumstances.

Azerbaijan welcomes the developments that resulted in putting an end to the occupation of Heglig and stressed the importance of addressing all of the consequences of that internationally wrongful act. In that context, additional steps should be taken to address the call of the Council for an impartial fact-finding effort to assess the losses and the economic and humanitarian damage, including to oil facilities and other key infrastructure, in and around Heglig.

The Security Council stresses that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. That clear message, inter alia, discourages the activity of rebel groups in those states and any external support for them. Such measures and the increased attention supported by the Security Council under the resolution it has just adopted acquire particular significance with a view to ending the violence and preventing serious violations of the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Deng Alor Kuol (South Sudan): First, I would like to congratulate the representative of Azerbaijan on his assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May.

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the Security Council's prompt response to the request of the African Union (AU) to adopt and reinforce the decision of 24 April 2012 of the AU Peace and Security Council on the Sudan and South Sudan. On behalf of my Government, I would like to formally express my appreciation for the adoption of resolution 2046 (2012) and state our solemn commitment to comply with its mandated provisions.

It is my privilege to reaffirm that, in compliance with the decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Security Council's presidential statement, and in the spirit of our commitment to peace, my Government ordered the withdrawal of our police force from the Abyei area on 28 April 2012. We expect the international community to exert efforts to ensure the immediate and complete withdrawal of the Sudan Armed Forces from the Abyei area.

As acknowledged formally by the African Union, my Government is already committed to the cessation of hostilities and the resumption of negotiations under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). We welcome the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the commitment of the United Nations Security Council to the enhancement of the AUHIP-led negotiations process through the active participation of the United Nations, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other international partners.

We appeal to the United Nations and its Member States to urgently mobilize humanitarian assistance for the population affected by the Sudan's continuous aerial bombardments and ground incursions in the northern states of South Sudan, as well as for those tens of thousands of civilians displaced by the Sudan Armed Forces' invasion and occupation of the Abyei area in May 2011.

Once again, we would like to thank the Security Council for the adoption of this resolution and to reinstate our commitment to compliance with its provisions.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Mr. President, allow me to extend to you our sincere congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. Since your accession to the presidency, you have demonstrated outstanding skills and shown that your impartiality is unquestionable. You stand by the values of right and justice, which are qualities needed by the international community to achieve and maintain international peace and security. We commend you and wish you success.

By the same token, I would like to commend all of the members of the Security Council who insisted that resolution 2046 (2012) contain a condemnation of the attack and aggression on Heglig and of the actions of the South Sudanese armed forces, which were described as an act of aggression, a violation of State sovereignty and an encroachment upon its territorial integrity, all of which run counter to the Charter of the United Nations and to all of the international standards that regulate relations among States. We also wish to thank those members once again for having taken a stand and rightly called for an investigation and fact-finding mission with regard to the considerable destruction caused by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in Heglig.

The delegation of the Sudan would like to commend the role of the African Union (AU) in the maintenance of regional peace and security. The efforts it has made and the agreements reached at Abuja and at Doha with regard to Darfur are a case in point. In that connection, the statement made by the AU Peace and Security Council can only strengthen confidence in the ability of the AU High-level Implementation Panel, under the chairmanship of President Mbeki, to settle the outstanding issues between the Republic of the Sudan and South Sudan. We are confident that the Panel will continue to submit its reports to the AU Commission, and we reiterate the need to keep the process of conflict settlement within the African continent and under the care and leadership of Mr. Mbeki.

Against that background, our national responsibility for ensuring that peace takes root in the country and our regional and international responsibility to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security require us to make the following observations.

First, peace between the two Republics — the Sudan and South Sudan — will be achieved only if there is an end to all forms of support for, and the sheltering of, proxy rebel and armed groups by South Sudan. In that connection, it is noteworthy that resolution 2046 (2012, which has just been adopted, does not specify a time frame for the resolution of this issue, in contrast to the deadlines instituted in relation to other issues, which we deem too narrow and impracticable.

Secondly, it should be noted that the resolution disregards the continuous acts of aggression perpetrated by South Sudan against the Sudan. A case in point involves the declarations made by senior officials of South Sudan, who threaten to reoccupy Heglig. The presence of the ninth and tenth battalions of the SPLM-N inside the territory of the Sudan and the two states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile are a clear indication of an encroachment upon the inviolability of the territorial integrity of the Sudan.

Thirdly, with regard to aerial bombardment, we would like to recall the need for increased accuracy, given the presence of armed forces from South Sudan inside the territory of the Sudan, as we detailed in our letter to the Council on 28 April.

In that connection, I should like also to state that the Sudanese armed forces and air force did not bomb any areas inside South Sudan, despite the fact that it is our right to use all military means at our disposal inside our territory to repulse any aggression, including the use of aerial forces. No law bans the use of this option to protect the territory of a country that is endangered.

Fourthly, in conformity with the aforementioned statement, we are of the view that security issues between the two countries should be given paramount priority in negotiations as a means to discuss other relevant issues. Those issues must be discussed at the start of negotiations.

Fifthly, we would like to state that the resolution includes under Chapter VII the issue of the two states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, despite the fact that the African Union Peace and Security Council did not request that they be included under that Chapter and even though the Peace and Security Council's statement put them outside the road map whose adoption was called for under Chapter VII.

(*spoke in English*)

The road map is contained in paragraph 13 of the communiqué issued by the African Union Peace and Security Council, which requested the Security Council to endorse the road map.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

Finally, the resolution contains a threat of resort to measures under Article 41 of the Charter. The AU Peace and Security Council did not request that either;

we did not see that in its statement. Any oral allegation should be verified, and the Security Council should also verify the credibility of the party making such an allegation. We therefore have reservations as concerns all of the foregoing.

In conclusion, we would state once again that our policy is based on respect for the sovereignty of States and the non-violation of the sanctity of their territory.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.